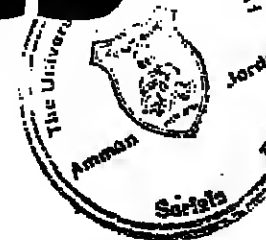


Iraqis foil two Iranian thrusts

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Saturday its forces had crushed two Iranian ground attacks in the central and southern sectors of the Gulf war front. A military spokesman was quoted by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) as saying Iranian infantry units attacked Friday in a bid to recapture positions recently liberated by Iraqi troops in the southern sector. The spokesman said the Iranian attempt was foiled and 40 Iranian soldiers were killed and 12 army vehicles and seven ammunition dumps destroyed. In the other attack in the central front Friday night, the spokesman said the Iranians were repulsed. Two infantry companies were wiped out and the rest fled the battlefield, he said. Meanwhile, Iranian navy fire fighters were battling Saturday to extinguish a blaze aboard a Turkish supertanker more than 24 hours after it was hit in an Iraqi missile attack.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Syndicate
جوردان تلیم یومیه صحفیه العربیه المستقلة



Summit decision expected this week

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco is expected to send envoys to Arab capitals this weekend for further consultations on a proposed special Arab summit on the Palestinian question, according to Moroccan officials. A final decision on whether or not to hold the summit which King Hassan proposed last month could be expected in about a week, they said. Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi suggested that the meeting, the first Arab summit since 1982, should take place on July 28 in Casablanca. A majority of the league's 21 members are in favour of the summit. Algeria, Libya, South Yemen and Lebanon have expressed reservations. Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat was in Algiers this week to try to soften Algeria's opposition to the meeting being held in Morocco, its arch-rival in North Africa. Mr. Klibi is back in Tunis after a visit to Damascus where he discussed the summit with Syrian officials.

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Rifai pledges cabinet support for PSD

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Saturday visited the Public Security Department (PSD) headquarters and was briefed on the department's activities, services it offers to citizens, its capabilities and proposed schemes to upgrade its standards to meet with the citizens' demands. Mr. Rifai was received at the PSD by Minister of Interior Hassan Al Kayed, PSD Director-General Lieutenant-General Abdul Hadi Al Majali. Mr. Rifai voiced the cabinet's full support for moves to upgrade the department's services and pledged to provide the necessary backing to the department.

OIC supports moves to fight terrorism

BAHRAIN (R) — Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Secretary-General Shariuddin Pirzada Saturday condemned Thursday's bomb attack in Kuwait and voiced support for steps being taken by Arab and Islamic countries to fight terrorism. The Omani News Agency also quoted him as saying the OIC denounced all terrorist action resulting in the death of innocent people anywhere, and especially in the Islamic World. Mr. Pirzada, who arrived in Oman Saturday, is to have talks on ways of expanding cooperation between the OIC and Oman.

France to free 2,400 prisoners

PARIS (R) — At least 2,400 prisoners will be released from France's overcrowded jails this weekend under a presidential clemency to mark July 14, France's National Day, officials said Saturday. The decree, marking the anniversary of the fall of the Bastille prison during the French Revolution, cuts sentences by one month for all prisoners, except those convicted of narcotic offences or violence against security forces. Judges may cut a further month of the sentences of selected prisoners at their discretion.

E. Germany detains 'would-be hijackers'

BONN (R) — A group of suspected "Middle Eastern" people planning to hijack a U.S. plane in west Berlin have been arrested in East Berlin, the conservative daily Die Welt reported Saturday. It quoted Western intelligence sources as saying the suspects had been arrested at East Berlin's Schoenefeld airport after explosives were found in diplomatic baggage belonging to them. The newspaper did not say how many people had been arrested nor did it give their country of origin.

Gorbachev leaves Moscow on holiday

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev left Moscow Saturday on holiday, TASS news agency said. It did not say how long he would be absent from the capital or give any details of where he would be spending his holiday, but Kremlin chiefs traditionally have a two-month summer break in the Crimea.

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Kuwait buries victims of blasts amid calls for tough anti-terror action

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwait Saturday buried most of the victims of Thursday's restaurant bombings amid calls for stronger action against terrorism in the Gulf.

Fayez cables Sa'adoun

The National Assembly, the only elected Gulf Arab parliament, afterwards went into special session to debate the tragedy, in which eight were killed and 89 injured as blasts ripped through two crowded cafes on the city's seafloor.

A hunt continued for the bombers but there was no official word of any arrests so far. Local newspapers added their voice to calls by the imams (preachers) in Friday prayers for a further security clampdown to stamp out subversion.

"The wise way to meet the challenge posed by saboteurs is to close ranks, reinforce security, self-confidence and self-reliance," the Kuwait Times said in a front-page editorial.

Imams, in a virtual chorus at the state's mosques, have called for saboteurs to be given the harshest possible punishments in accordance with Islamic law.

Saudi Arabia joined other Arab states in denouncing the blasts, for which a little-known group called the "Arab Revolutionary Brigades Organisation" claimed responsibility.

The Saudi Press Agency, quoting a statement by the Saudi Royal Court, said the kingdom "strongly condemns and denounces violence and terrorism anywhere."

Other Arab newspapers called for joint Gulf action to combat terrorism (See page 2).

Kuwait's acting prime minister and foreign minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, led a ministerial delegation at the funeral Saturday of five of the eight, all men, who died in the blasts.

The Kuwait News Agency said those buried Saturday included four Kuwaitis aged between 50 and 65 years and a 30-year-old Iranian. Two Kuwaitis aged 16 and 20 were buried Friday.

It made no mention of the other victim, an Egyptian, whose body was believed to have been flown home.

Assembly speaker Ahmad Al Sadoun and other deputies joined grieving relatives at the burial in the city's Suleibkhat cemetery.

The chairman of the assembly's defence and interior affairs committee, Hadi Hayef Al Hyweila, earlier described the bombings as an attack on democracy in Kuwait.

A dragnet by soldiers and police continued throughout the country, hunting the terrorists.

Two days after the blasts, the government was able to establish the exact casualty toll. Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed told parliament that the authorities were able to determine that eight died in the blasts and 88 were injured.

He also said that the blasts, which went off almost simultaneously in the two cafes 10 kilometres apart, were caused by time bombs each weighing four to six kilograms and had been planted in adjacent garages.

The Kuwaiti government was notifying its sister member states in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) of the developments of the investigations, but details were not published.

The GCC groups together Kuwait with Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman in a regional alliance seeking collective security as well as economic unity.

Cabinet ministers, members of the ruling Al Sabah family and members of parliament assisted at Saturday's funeral which moved by motorcade from the Amir Hospital near one of the blasted cafes to the Suleibkhat cemetery, 15 kilometres from the city centre.

Despite the 48 centigrade heat, crowds lined the route of the funeral procession to shout their calls for "death to the killers," eyewitnesses told the AP.

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AMMAN (J.T.) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akel Al Fayez Saturday cabled the speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly, Mr. Ahmad Al Sa'adoun, condemning Thursday's bomb attacks in Kuwait in which eight people were killed and 89 were injured.

In his cable, Mr. Fayez, in his name and on behalf of Jordanian parliamentarians, described the attacks as "criminal acts aimed at dividing Arab ranks, paralyzing Arab national capabilities and weakening Arab nations and Arab solidarity."

Mr. Fayez also voiced the Jordanian parliament's denunciation of the attacks and Jordan's solidarity with Kuwait.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry Saturday received a cable from the Jordanian embassy in Kuwait saying that no Jordanian nationals were injured in the attacks on two seafloor restaurants.

AMMAN (J.T.) — In a move clearly seen as aimed at revitalising the stagnated real estate sector, the Cabinet Saturday formed a new committee to study the existing regulations covering land and building transactions, taxes, and investments and to submit recommendations to the Cabinet.

In an ordinary session chaired by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, the Cabinet reviewed the existing rules and regulations and the structure of taxes on land and buildings and entrusted the new committee with the task of drawing up recommendations on reducing the taxes.

The proposed amendments envisage income tax exemptions for income from the sale of land, reductions of fee charged for registering land sale/purchase deeds, relaxation of rules covering purchase of land by real estate companies within the limits of urban settlement boundaries for development and investment, and permission for projects to develop

touristic sites outside municipal boundaries and investments in agricultural areas.

The newly-formed committee is headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al Majali and includes Minister of Interior Hassan Al Kayed, Minister of Labour Khalid Al Haj Hassan, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Al Hmoud, Minister of Industry and Trade Rajal Muasher, Minister of Finance Hanna Odeh, Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour and Minister of Agriculture Ahmad Dakhan.

During Saturday's session, the Cabinet also decided to conduct and finance several studies and field surveys on industry, family income and spending and external and internal migration.

A decision to introduce an amendment to the existing system of allotting car number plates to members of parliament was also

taken by the Cabinet on Saturday. The amendment stipulates that the speakers of the two houses of parliament and members of both houses will be issued special number plates for their vehicles.

The Cabinet decided to detach certain departments of the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) and transfer them to the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ). These departments are mostly pertaining to water and water resources.

The Cabinet also decided to transfer several departments in WAJ dealing with irrigation to the JVA.

The Cabinet also endorsed a JD 6 million budget of the Health Insurance Fund for 1985 and approved the fund's staff requirements.

The Cabinet also approved new regulations covering compulsory car insurance against third party liability and an amendment to the existing law on practising pharmacies.

In his transfer of power letter addressed to Acting Senate President Sirom Thurmond and Speaker of the House of Representatives Thomas "Tip" O'Neill, Mr. Reagan said:

"I am about to undergo surgery during which time I will be briefly and temporarily incapable of discharging the constitutional powers and duties of the office of the president of the United States."

"I shall advise you and the vice president when I determine that I am able to resume the discharge of the constitutional powers and duties of this office," Mr. Reagan told the congressional leaders.

The letter for all practical purposes gave Mr. Bush, Mr. Reagan's running mate in both the 1980 and 1984 elections, the legal basis to assume all the responsibilities of the presidency.

Under the 25th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the vice president and a majority in the cabinet can certify that the president is unable to discharge his powers and duties. In that case, the vice president can become acting president.

A president resumes his powers and duties when he tells Congress that he is able to do so.

The portion of the 25th amendment involving a presidential disability has never been invoked before and the White House was careful to say it was not invoking it in this situation.

Even though Speaker said preliminary biopsy tests showed the glandular growth in Mr. Reagan's intestine to be non-cancerous, a number of cancer specialists were present during the surgery performed by Dr. Dale Offy, a navy captain and chief surgeon at the hospital.

"I can assure you that the president is in top-notch spirits," Speaker said.

The ENLF spokesman denied involvement in the bomb plot and said it had been "stage-managed" by the Sri Lankan government to undermine the peace talks.

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LIVE AID CONCERT: The Prince and Princess of Wales with Live Aid concert organiser Bob Geldof (right) about to take their seats at Wembley Stadium Saturday for the London end of the

African famine relief concert relayed to TV around the world from there and Philadelphia on Saturday (AP wirephoto)

Cabinet reviews means to revitalise real estate sector

Team to draw up recommendations on reducing taxes, encouraging investments

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Reagan transfers power to Bush, undergoes surgery

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan transferred control of the government to Vice-President George Bush Saturday shortly before undergoing major surgery to remove a large intestinal growth that early tests showed to be non-cancerous.

The surgery began at 11:48 a.m. (1548 GMT) at the Bethesda Naval Medical Centre, some 16 kilometres from the White House. It was expected to last three to four hours.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said that shortly before the operation Mr. Reagan sent a letter to congressional leaders informing them that he was turning over the reins of power to Mr. Bush. Speakes said that the move appeared to be unprecedented.

Mr. Bush decided Saturday morning to cut short a stay at his summer home in Maine and flew back to Washington.

Earlier in the day, Speakes said that preliminary tests showed that the large growth, or polyp, discovered in Mr. Reagan's abdomen Friday during a routine surgical procedure to remove a smaller, benign polyp, was non-cancerous.

He also said sophisticated scanning techniques indicated that there was no cancer in Mr. Reagan's bowel, liver or other organs.

Mr. Reagan at 74 is the oldest president in U.S. history and the only one to survive a would-be assassin's bullet. He completely recovered from the wound suffered on March 30, 1981.

Speakes said Mr. Reagan was in a cheerful mood as he was wheeled from his \$425-a-day hospital suite to the operating room.

"Mrs. Reagan walked beside, holding his hand. She went to the beginning of the sterile zone," Speakes said. "Both said 'I love you'. She then left."

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Jordan pursues efforts to block Hospice closure

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is continuing its efforts to block Israeli moves to close down the Hospice Hospital in Jerusalem and is in close contact with various Arab and international organisations to stop "this arbitrary measure which is in violation of international law and human rights," Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh said Saturday.

In a statement carried by the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Dr. Hamzeh said Jordan has refused all Israeli allegations that serve as a pretext for the occupation authorities' decision to close the hospital, which serves as the only Arab institution in Jerusalem, providing medical services to a large number of citizens in the occupied territories who cannot afford to pay the high costs of Israeli hospitals.

The Ministry of Health has sent several memoranda to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the International Human Rights Commission and other international organisations, refuting the Israeli allegation that the hospital's buildings were unfit for use, Dr. Hamzeh said.

The minister added that Jordan raised the issue of the hospital at a recent extraordinary meeting of the Arab Health Ministers Council and the council approved financial grants to repair and maintain the hospital building.

A rocket-propelled grenade was fired Friday evening at the radio station in west Beirut, causing only material damage.

The attackers escaped and sources at the radio linked the attack to the report on the hijackers.

The "coordination committee" is headed by Prime Minister Rasheed Karami, who flew Friday to spend the weekend in Tripoli, his hometown, where bitter street fighting between rival militias has killed 45 and wounded 125 since Monday.

Security sources said the northern port city was quiet but tense Saturday and streets were deserted around major flashpoints.

Army troops patrolled most trouble spots but avoided a two-kilometre stretch of a street barricaded by Muslim fundamentalists battling the pro-Syrian Arab Democratic Party.

Several plans to end militia reign in both mainly Christian east and mostly Muslim west Beirut have failed to hold for more than a few days.

Syria, which emerged as the

main power broker in Lebanon following the collapse of the United States diplomacy in February 1984, pledged earlier it will help Lebanon counter a U.S. embargo of its only commercial airport — a move which, if widely enforced, would seriously harm Lebanon's already battered economy.

But the United States is insistent it will not lift the blockade until the fractured government tightens security at the airport, effectively in the hands of militants.

The U.S. embargo on Beirut airport followed the hijacking of the Trans World Airlines jetliner from Athens to Beirut last month and the abduction of some of its American passengers and crew by Lebanese militants.

The White House welcomed a Beirut Radio report Friday that the Lebanese government has ordered the prosecution of the three hijackers, one of whom killed a U.S. navy frogman during the 17-day hijack saga.

In one of its newscasts the radio also identified the hijackers for the first time as Ali Anwar, Ali Younes and Ahmad Gharibeh. But it dropped the item altogether in later broadcasts.

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Iran frees Kuwaiti ship, retains cargo for Iraq

Kuwait refinery fire put out with no casualties

ABU DHABI (R) — A Kuwaiti-registered ship seized by Iran in the Gulf of Oman arrived here Saturday after being detained since June 20, shipping sources said.

The sources said the 23,000-tonne Al Muharraq arrived with all crew members, mostly British and Bangladeshi, aboard.

In Kuwait, shipping and diplomatic sources said Iran had kept some of the ship's cargo bound for Iraq. Iran and Iraq have been at war since September 1980.

The sources in Kuwait said the remaining cargo would be checked under the supervision of the salvage association in Abu Dhabi. They said they had no firm details on when the Al Muharraq sailed from the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas at the mouth of the Gulf.

They said its 10,500-tonne cargo did not include war material for Iraq when it was intercepted by Iranian gunboats about 30 miles outside the Strait of Hormuz.

"The Iranians seemed to think she had military hardware for Iraq. She didn't have anything like

— and 22 Bangladeshi crewmen. Kuwait-based UASC is a joint venture owned by the governments of Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Meanwhile fire broke out Friday at a heavy crude unit in Kuwait's Al Shuaiba Refinery, but was quickly put out, a spokesman for the Kuwait National Petroleum Corporation said Saturday.

He attributed the fire to a technical fault and said there were no casualties. The impact on operations was minimal and the unit continued to work at full capacity, he added.

The refinery has a capacity of 160,000 barrels a day, and is one of the largest crude oil processing units in Kuwait.

Kuwait news agency said that two fire brigade units were dispatched to combat the blaze in hydrogen unit number seven but provided no further details.

The fire occurred as the country mourned the death of 11 persons in the overnight bombing of two crowded seaside cafes. Another 8 persons were injured in the blasts.



Washington condemns Kuwait bombing

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs Robert Smalley said that the United States "is not the only victim of terrorism."

"The United States," he said, "strongly condemns and deplores the bombings that occurred in Kuwait and we extend our sympathy to the families of the innocent victims. The bombings demonstrate once again that the United States is not the only victim of terrorism. Arab countries are victims as well."

"This underlines the need for international cooperation to combat the scourge of terrorism, and we hope those guilty of the bombings will be brought to justice," the spokesman added.

Mr. Smalley said that a small Palestinian terrorist group called "Black June" has reportedly claimed responsibility for the bombings.

Mideast POW exchange negotiator dies

VIENNA (R) — Herbert Amry, Austria's ambassador to Greece and chief go-between in Middle East negotiations on prisoner exchanges between Israel and the Palestinians, has died suddenly in Athens at the age of 46, the Foreign Ministry said.

Mr. Amry, a former close aide of ex-Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, played a key role in working out the details of two major exchanges of more than 5,000 Palestinians for Israeli prisoners in 1983 and 1985.

After the latest exchange last May of three Israeli soldiers for more than 1,000 Palestinians, Israel thanked Mr. Amry in a letter in the Israeli embassy in Athens.

Lebanese suffer from drugs, drunkenness, divorces and depression

BEIRUT (AP) — In a decade of civil war, one in 40 of Lebanon's 4 million people has died violently — victims of Israeli attacks, artillery fire, street battles between rival militias and suicide bombings by radicals.

Daily death tolls are updated by police, hospital morgues, the Red Cross and civil defence offices and routinely reported by Lebanon's lively newspapers, radio stations and television channels.

But civil war, sectarian strife and a three-year occupation by Israeli troops have claimed countless other largely uncounted casualties in a land where few people are untouched by conflict.

Drug addiction, drunkenness, divorces and depression — symptoms of tensions and traumas born out of the troubles — have reached record levels, experts say. They say part of the problem springs from westernisation, mainly in the cities and in the Falangist-dominated countryside.

But they contend that a decade of war psychosis has ripped apart the fabric of society.

Widespread drunkenness and alcoholism and an upsurge in divorces are accepted by sociologists and marriage counsellors as unfortunate but predictable results of prolonged stress.

Dr. Adnan Sabbagh, a psychologist at the American University of Beirut, offers grim statistical pointers to the extent of other social ills based on interviews with patients and researchers' studies carried out in the capital.

— 35 per cent of newborns are born physically deformed or mentally retarded because their mothers "couldn't take it (the war) anymore" and turned to tranquillisers during pregnancy.

Some four-fifths of teenagers smoke cigarettes, against 2 per cent before the outbreak of civil war in April 1975.

Bush believes Lebanon is trying to step up Beirut Airport security

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Vice President George Bush says that there are indications that Lebanon is making "an effort to do more about securing" the Beirut Airport.

"I think they want to do that, and do it," he said, "the hijackers of TWA Flight 847, Mr. Bush said in an interview on ABC's 'Good Morning America' programme.

However, the vice president said he could not confirm reports by Beirut Radio that the Lebanese government has authorised the pursuit and prosecution of the gunmen who hijacked the American jetliner and killed a U.S. Navy diver who was on board.

Following is the transcript of the interview:

Q: We are hearing these reports this morning that Beirut Radio, it's called, supposedly controlled by Amal, is reporting that they've authorised the apprehension and perhaps prosecution of the original three hijackers. What's our government's reaction to that?

A: Well, the government's reaction is, we can't confirm that yet. Just before coming here I checked with our situation room, and there is no confirmation.

I would only say, in an effort to be somewhat optimistic, that there appears to be now in Lebanon — even though their government is separated — an effort to do more about securing the airport. I think they want to do that, and to apprehend these people. But we can't confirm this at all.

Q: What are our options, Mr. vice-president? We've called for their extradition. If justice is not done regarding these three men, what are our options?

A: Well, they are very limited. And I guess the worst thing I could do would be to define what it is we might do. But I think we should press for the extradition and trial and prosecution of these criminals. And we are not at all pessimistic about being able to get that done. So I think I'd leave it right there.

But, then, beyond that, you've seen what our suggestions have

been about Beirut Airport. We're not trying to penalise the innocent people of Lebanon. We're not trying to penalise a government that's suffering enough anyway, but we are saying that airport cannot continue to operate as a haven for terrorists in almost anarchy form. So there are options that are underway right now to correct abuse, and there are plenty of efforts to get ahold of these people that conducted this murder — the murder of Stehmet.

Q: When you're talking about cautious optimism, does this apply as well to the seven Americans who are still being held hostage?

A: I can't quantify my emotion for you on that one, but let me — I've (been) watching it very carefully. The president is extraordinarily concerned. We are — just as we couldn't talk about the specifics that were underway when we were trying to free those hostages, we can't talk about the specifics that have been underway, and are underway, to free the seven.

So I can't say optimism, but I do want to say — because there's an awful lot of anguish in the country with the families and all — that efforts are really going full blast to try to get them out of there.

Q: While you've been out of the country, President Reagan has talked enough more than once, using all sorts of tough adjectives to describe terrorists and what the U.S. response might be. Yet, with those seven held, as you just said earlier, there's really not much we can do. Are we in effect talking loud and carrying a small stick?

A: No, because the hostages are not there — a lot of them — not the seven. But the TWA hostages are out, and so I think a mixture of the carrot and the stick are good.

You know, we forget that one of the demands of — during that holding of the TWA hostages that the removal of the Sixth Fleet from off the coast of Lebanon. That didn't take place. And the president — some were saying — "there's, macho, putting the fleet in there." It's a combination of carrot and stick.

U.S. voices concern over nuclear export safeguards

WASHINGTON (USIA) — U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Robert Smalley has said, "we understand that the International Atomic Energy Agency, Euratom, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom and France have all addressed" in the case of Israel obtaining 40 tonnes of uranium illegally and that it is being properly addressed "in accordance with international safeguards procedures governing the export of depleted uranium."

Mr. Smalley said, "we are always concerned that proper safeguard procedures are followed in connection with the export of nuclear materials, particularly when there is a transfer to a non-nuclear weapons state which is not a party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)."

The United States, he said, has not exported any nuclear material to Israel for nuclear purposes since the enactment of the Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1978. "We have exported some depleted uranium to Israel in fabricated form to be used in conventional weaponry and in the form of counterweights for jet passenger aircraft," Mr. Smalley said.

He added: "We do not have information about specifically what Israel did with this depleted uranium, but we do know that they have used depleted uranium in the past for penetrators for conventional armour piercing munitions."

Gulf Arab states denounce Kuwait blast

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf Arab states have denounced the restaurant bomb blasts in Kuwait on Thursday in which eight people were killed and 89 injured, the official Saudi press agency reported.

It quoted a statement by the Saudi Royal Court Friday night saying that "while Saudi Arabia shares Kuwait's grief, it strongly condemns and denounces violence and terrorism anywhere."

The agency also quoted a senior North Yemeni official as saying his country supported the Kuwaiti people and any other Arab country which might be subjected to "acts of treachery and aggression regardless of their source."

The agency quoted King Fahd, in a telephone call to Kuwait's ruler, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, as reaffirming Saudi Arabia's support for Kuwait and condemning "the terrorist and criminal acts which Kuwait has been subjected to."

The Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister, Prince Saud Al Faisal, left for Kuwait to discuss the blasts, it added.

Newspapers in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) called Saturday for joint Arab action to combat terrorism after the Kuwait blasts.

An editorial in Dubai's Al Bayan said the bombings required a "studied Arab Gulf effort to confront terrorism and foil attempts to toy with the security and stability of the countries of the region."

"A threat to the security of one sister country surely opens the door to risks to other countries, either in the Gulf or elsewhere in the Arab World," it said.

Al Itihad referred to the need for "decisive and complete measures to close gaps in the internal and external fronts in the force of advancing internal dangers."

The UAE government Friday night condemned the blasts as a "despicable crime" and said Kuwait's security was inseparable from that of the Gulf as a whole, the Emirates News Agency reported.

In Muscat, the Omani Foreign Ministry, denouncing the blasts, said in a statement the Kuwaiti people were being "subjected to a campaign of terrorism, organised by outside forces, aimed at undermining the security and stability which the Kuwaiti society enjoys."

In Beirut, newspapers reacted to the blasts by linking them to the recent TWA hijack crisis in Lebanon.

Lebanese clearing Israeli trenches in Bekaa

BAALBECK, Lebanon (R) — Workers contracted to a Saudi Arabian millionaire have begun removing trenches and barricades along former Israeli lines in East Lebanon in a bid to reclaim the land for agricultural use.

Workers said they would remove the last vestiges of 29 Israeli camps between the villages of Amiq and Khirbet Rouha. The camps are protected by trenches more than three metres deep and six metres wide.

Eyewitnesses said the Hariri Foundation, a charitable body headed by businessman Rafiq Hariri, had started a campaign to

fill in trenches and dig up fortifications along a 25 kilometre stretch of the eastern Bekaa Valley.

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TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19	BBC WORLD SERVICE 639, 720, 1413 KHz
MAIN CHANNEL	07:00 Newsweek 07:30 Guitar Workshop 07:45 Financial Review 07:55 Reflections 08:00 World News 08:00 24 Hours: News Summary 08:30 A Land of Song 08:45 Letter from America 09:00 Newsweek 09:30 Jazz for the Asking 10:00 World News 10:00 24 Hours: News Summary 10:30 Hunger 10:45 Hunger 11:00 World News 11:00 Reflections 11:15 The Pleasure's Yours 12:00 World News 12:00 British Press Review 12:15 From Our Own Correspondents 12:30 Religious Service 14:00 World News 14:00 News About Britain 14:15 From Our Own Correspondents 14:30 Baker's Half Dozen 15:00 News Summary: Play of the Week 16:00 World News 16:00 24 Hours: News Summary 16:30 Fried Eggs Are 16:45 The Tony Martin Show 17:00 News Summary 17:30 A Marriage of Convenience 18:00 Radio Newsweek 18:15 Concert Hall: World News 19:00 Commentary 19:15 The Best of 19:45 Letter from America 20:00 World News 20:00 Reflections 20:15 Meridian 20:45 Sports Round-up 21:00 Newsweek 21:30 Patrick Markey's Music Box 22:00 News Summary: Recording of the Week 22:15 A Truce to Terror 23:00 World News 23:00 24 Hours: News Summary 23:30 Sunday Half-Hour 24:00 News Summary: Sports Story 00:15 The Pleasure's Yours 01:00 News 01:00 Jewels for a Princess: The Sonnets of Shakespeare 01:25 Book Choice 01:30 Financial News 01:40 Reflections 01:45 Sports Round-up 02:00 World News, Commentary 02:15 Letter from America 02:30 The Liberated Male 02:45 VOICE OF AMERICA MW 1260, KHz 7200, 9565, 11740, 15100, 15150, 15200, 15250, 15300, 15350, 15400, 15450, 15500, 15550, 15600, 15650, 15700, 15750, 15800, 15850, 15900, 15950, 16000, 16050, 16100, 16150, 16200, 16250, 16300, 16350, 16400, 16450, 16500, 16550, 16600, 16650, 16700, 16750, 16800, 16850, 16900, 16950, 17000, 17050, 17100, 17150, 17200, 17250, 17300, 17350, 17400, 17450, 17500, 17550, 17600, 17650, 17700, 17750, 17800, 17850, 17900, 17950, 18000, 18050, 18100, 18150, 18200, 18250, 18300, 18350, 18400, 18450, 18500, 18550, 18600, 18650, 18700, 18750, 18800, 18850, 18900, 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NEWS IN BRIEF

National committee discusses narcotics

AMMAN (Petra) — The national committee on narcotics held a meeting Saturday at the department of basic health care during which the committee discussed the problem of narcotics in the country. The committee discussed the possibility of conducting a study and survey to determine the magnitude of the problems and its economic and social implications. The committee recommended the establishment of an up to date centre for the treatment of drug addicts. The committee includes representatives from the Ministries of Health, Education, Social Development and Youth in addition to representatives from the University of Jordan and the Public Security Department.

Jordan to send teachers to UAE

ABU DHABI (Petra) — Jordan, Egypt and Tunisia have agreed to send 910 teachers to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) during the 1985-1986 scholastic year, according to a source at the UAE Ministry of Education. The source said that Jordan will send 400 teachers, Egypt 500 and Tunisia 10. Two missions from the UAE Ministry of Education are expected to leave for Jordan and Egypt within the coming few days to start interviewing applicants, the source added. The source said that 600 teachers from both countries will be contracted without the prerequisite of those teachers providing certificates of experience.

Aqaba to have health directorate

AMMAN (J.T.) Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh Saturday approved a decision to establish a health directorate in the port city of Aqaba as of July 16. The directorate will offer medical services to local citizens. The decision, according to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, is part of the ministry's policy to upgrade health services in the Kingdom.

Car accident injures man, 7 children

KARAK (Petra) Eight people were reported injured in a car accident on the Tafila highway. According to police sources, a taxi bearing Saudi plates rolled over after the driver lost control of the car. Karak Hospital Director Nizar Salam said that Subhi Salameh Atawi, the driver, and his seven children were in good condition.

Egyptian team meets officials

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting Egyptian pharmaceutical delegation Saturday held meetings with Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh, Minister of Trade and Industry Rajai Muasher and Director of the Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation Mohammad Bani Hani. The meetings discussed means of executing a protocol agreement signed between Jordan and Egypt in the field of pharmaceutical and medical products. The Egyptian delegation is headed by Egyptian Pharmaceutical Corporation Director, Midhat Jatan.

Alia obtains compensation for destroyed aircraft

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Alia, the Jordanian Airline, has obtained \$15 million in compensation for the loss of one of its aircraft which was destroyed by hijackers in Beirut on June 12. The claims were paid by the Jordan-French Insurance Company which is based in Amman and which deals with an international re-insurance syndicate, the company's Vice-Chairman and Director General Wa'el Zo'rob said Saturday.

Mr. Zo'rob told the Jordan Times that his company and Alia have agreed on claims for the loss of the aircraft and luggage as fixed in the insurance policy for the Boeing 727 which was blown up at Beirut International Airport following a two-day hijack.

A spokesman for Alia Saturday confirmed the figure for the claim but did not elaborate. Both Alia and the insurance company launched joint efforts to determine a fixed claim for the plane as insurance claims sometimes differ from the fixed figures written in the policy, Mr. Zo'rob explained.

The Jordan-French Insurance Company is the only local company entrusted with insurance for the Alia fleet of aircraft and it has a long record in this field, Mr. Zo'rob said. He said that this is the second time that Alia has lost plane from its fleet. A crash in Doha, Qatar, in 1979 resulted in the loss of a 727 and the company paid all its commitments following that accident, Mr. Zo'rob pointed out.

Speaking about the company, Mr. Zo'rob explained that the firm has re-insurance cover from the international aviation market which is led by the London aviation market.



Mr. Duwan Pong, a special South Korean envoy who visited Amman and delivered a message from South Korean President Chun Doo-Hwan to His

Majesty King Hussein, is seen off by senior Foreign Ministry officials and S. Korean embassy officials upon his departure Saturday (Petra photo)

S. Korean envoy concludes official visit

AMMAN (Petra) — South Korean presidential envoy Duwan Pong and the accompanying delegation left Amman Saturday ending a five-day official visit to Jordan. During the envoy's stay in Jordan he met His Majesty King Hussein and delivered a message from South Korean President Chun Doo-Hwan.

Mr. Duwan also met with Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai and senior Jordanian officials and discussed with them bilateral relations between the two countries and means of further bolstering them. Also

discussed were the Middle East crisis, the Feb. 11 Jordanian-Palestinian accord and an international conference for establishing peace in the region.

Mr. Duwan, in a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, praised the distinguished Jordanian-South Korean bilateral relations and stressed the importance of further supporting these relations. He also had paid tribute to the progress which Jordan has achieved under the leadership of King Hussein and expressed his country's readiness to support the establishment of joint projects. The South Korean envoy also expressed hope that a Jordanian-South Korean friendship society would be set up to promote relations between the two peoples. Mr. Duwan was seen off at the Queen Alia International Airport by the first deputy speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Ismail Hijazi, a number of Foreign Ministry officials and South Korean Ambassador in Amman Dong Soon Park.

Abu Joura returns from Red Crescent talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) President Ahmad Abu Joura who is also the chairman of the executive committee of Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross societies, returned to Amman Saturday after attending meetings of the executive committee which convened in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, last week.

Dr. Abu Joura said upon arrival that the committee discussed the agenda for a conference on international humanitarian law which is due to convene in Amman during the coming year. The committee also tackled the

drought which struck a large part of Africa and decided to continue sending aid to drought victims.

He went on to say that the issue of supplying relief to Palestinians affected by Israeli attacks on Palestinian camps in Lebanon was discussed as well as the stand of the International Committee of the Red Cross regarding aid to be sent to Lebanon by the Arab League and international organizations.

Dr. Abu Joura pointed out that the Syrian Red Crescent representative to the committee was nominated to deputise for the president of the International Red

Cross and Red Crescent Societies League. He also said that Egypt and Algeria were nominated for membership of the executive committee. He added that the committee also nominated the Syrian Red Crescent for membership in the financial committee of the league.

Dr. Abu Joura said that the committee suggested introducing a medal to be named after Abu Baker Al Seddiq, a noted leader in Arab history. The medal would be granted to those who contribute great services to the Red Crescent movement on both Arab and international levels, he concluded.

British experts to study feasibility of TCC privatisation

AMMAN (Petra) — Five experts from the British Telecom, the consultancy service of British Telecom, are due in Amman today upon an invitation from Minister of Communications and Chairman of the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) board of directors Mohyeddin Al Hussein to conduct study on the feasibility of the privatisation of the TCC, according to an announcement Saturday by TCC Director General Mohammad Shaded Ismail.

Mr. Ismail said that British Telecom experts were chosen because of their recent success and unique experience in moving from a heavily regulated government telecommunications corporation into a public share holding and commercially competitive company.

This trend towards privatisation, Mr. Ismail added, is becoming of a great interest to several countries and administrations responsible for telecommunications in the world. He pointed out that the Japanese government has recently made its governmental corporation into a shareholding company and added that several European administrations are conducting similar studies on the same issue with the aim of introducing and applying administrative and commercial flexibility which governmental institutions lack.

He said that inviting the British experts is in line with the gov-



Mohammad Shaded Ismail

ernment's policy to promote the active participation of the private sector in all activities and fields of life in Jordan.

The proposed study will ascertain the degree of participation of the private sector in financing and managing telecommunications services in Jordan. The final report will be submitted to Mr. Al Hussein.

Jordan contributes to Arab conference on passport issues

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has participated in the meetings of the 22nd Arab conference for directors of nationality and passport departments. The meetings were held in Tunis between July 6-8.

Jordan's chief of delegation and director of the Department of Nationality and Passports at the Ministry of Interior, Mr. Salameh Hammad, told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that the conference discussed various matters pertaining to the application of resolutions passed by earlier similar conferences.

Mr. Hammad said that the conference studied papers on the police role in combating forged passports and travel documents, nationality laws and regulations in

different Arab countries and the use of computers in the identification of departing and arriving travellers.

He said that the conference passed several resolutions regarding the illegal transportation of people through borders, conditions pertaining to residence in other countries and regulations regarding the registration of visitors in host countries and conditions under which nationality can be extended to a national of another Arab country or a foreign country.

The conference was attended by delegates from the United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Libya, Morocco, North Yemen as well as Jordan.

Muasher fixes retail prices for local brands of detergent

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Muasher Saturday fixed the selling prices of 'Ideal' and 'Wonder White' detergents which are produced by the Jordan Industrial, Trade and Agricultural Company.

Small carton containers weighing 200 grammes have been fixed at 120 fils while containers weighing 400 grammes will be sold for 225 fils. Three-

kilogramme-plastic buckets are fixed at JD1.980 and cardboard containers of the same weight are fixed at JD 1.790. Carton containers weighing four-and-a-half kilogrammes have been fixed at JD 2.550.

The minister, in a circular he issued on the matter, requested clear price labels on every single container.

SOS village to provide a family life for Jordanian orphans

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian orphans, who have no place to turn for help, will soon be cared for by a new 'S.O.S.' children's village which will provide a home and family for children who are deserted, destitute or who have no relatives to offer them care.

The Jordan S.O.S. village, located on an area of 33 dunums in al-Tabbarbour, 10-minutes drive from Al-Hussein Youth City, will be completed at an estimated cost of JD 500,000. It is a project of the Kinderdorf-Verlag organisation which has its head quarters in Innsbruck, Austria and was founded by Herman Gemeiner.

The village, scheduled to open in Spring 1986, consists of twelve 'family' villas. "Each child will have a mother to guide him, since orphans usually have a lot of psychological problems," says S.O.S. Middle East regional representative Wolfgang Von Nidda.

He told the Jordan Times that children are accepted at ages from birth up to eight years and they live with their new 'mother' in a family atmosphere. "We do not accept children above eight because it is more difficult for them to adapt to their new family," Mr. Von Nidda said.

Children in these villages live a normal family life. They go to school and return home to their mother, sisters and brothers to have lunch, study and play, things usually done by ordinary children, Mr. Von Nidda explained.

"It is in these villages that deprived children realise the meaning of love and life," given to them by an S.O.S. mother who is usually a single, widowed or divorced woman aged between 25 and 40 years who devotes her life to offer emotional stability and mental guidance to these children, he adds.

The S.O.S. villages usually include a school, a supermarket, a laundry, an administrative complex play grounds, an amphitheatre and a bakery. There are separate family villas with four bedrooms, one for boys, another

for girls, one for children under seven and one for the mother, who usually shares it with a baby if infants are placed in her family. In addition, there is a kitchen, living and dining-room and a terrace.

Programmes in these villages are multiple and varied, but it depends on the mothers and the village administration to make the S.O.S. village "a lively or a sleepy place," stressed Mr. Von Nidda.

Mothers

The mother has to be understanding and mature in order to cope with her new children, taking into consideration that every normal family has arguments and misunderstandings which are usually solved by parental judgement. Mothers also have to love their children and really care for them.

"It may sound a very simple statement, but its application is very complex," said Mr. Von Nidda.

Therefore, each selected mother has to undergo a three-month training course at an S.O.S. training centre where she learns how to care for her family's physical and mental needs, how to be a housewife, in addition to home economics and other tasks which she should know before she can take care of her eight to 12 children plus her house, Mr. Von Nidda pointed out. In each S.O.S. village there is an advisor to offer psychological guidance to mothers in case "problems arise in a house," he said.

The concept of social integration between orphans and children from the outside community, who usually form 80 per cent of the students at a S.O.S. kindergarten is a major issue for the S.O.S. administration. "It is difficult to integrate an orphan into society, especially since people reject orphans," Mr. Von Nidda said. Kindergarten children normally treat the orphans as normal children until their parents interfere and tell their children not to sit next to this child or talk to him because he is an orphan," Mr. Von Nidda pointed out. It is only when this negative social attitude is bypassed that the S.O.S. children

feel they are normal children, he added. "This attitude is widespread all over the globe, in the Arab World, Europe and America but it should never hinder the S.O.S. villages from providing the best care to these children," he continued.

"Children admitted to the village should have proof that there is someone to care for them, because when the child joins us we are responsible for him. We don't like his relatives to interfere because at times it could be destructive to the child's personality," Mr. Von Nidda said.

"Of course, admittance to the village also depends on his family record and age, as well as the capabilities of the S.O.S. mother. After this the child is taken into the S.O.S. community and becomes a member of a family," he explained.

Usually, the S.O.S. village administration does not allow the children's relatives to visit often. "Our past experience shows that a lot of these children get depressed for a week or cry once they see a member of their old family," Mr. Von Nidda added.

Learning a trade

When they reach adolescence, boys are moved to a youth house where they live with other boys while receiving vocational training which enables them to earn a living in the future. Girls either remain with their mother or go to an S.O.S. hostel where they are taught a trade or receive other training.

All of the children maintain contacts with their family and mother even when they grow up and get married. "They continue to visit their mother and if they (the children) themselves become fathers and mothers, their S.O.S. mother becomes a grandmother," Mr. Von Nidda said.

The S.O.S. villages also cares for the mothers. "When they get old, the organisation provides houses for the S.O.S. mothers and this accommodation is usually located next to the children's village," he said.

The first S.O.S. village in Jordan will be able to accept up to 100 children. "We will start with 30 children as everything will be strange and new, but slowly the intake will increase. If we do it in a hurry, everything will be in a mess," Mr. Von Nidda said.

Social difficulties

At the start of S.O.S. villages in the Middle East, the administration and staff encountered social difficulties regarding their policies and operations. Mr. Von Nidda explained that society was "at odds" with the organisation because it provided mixed housing and because the idea of a new "mother" contradicted social concepts of social structure and Arab traditions. "Now, people have realised the idea behind the S.O.S. village and that a family is the best setting for a child to grow up in and we gradually overcome these obstacles," he said.

The idea of establishing a children's village in Jordan could have remained a dream if Her Majesty Queen Noor did not endorse the establishment of such a project, Mr. Von Nidda said.

Juene Noor met with former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky in Amman three years ago and as the Chancellor was a personal friend of S.O.S. founder, Mr. Gemeiner, the Queen's idea was passed on via Mr. Kreisky. Mr. Gemeiner visited Jordan and held discussions with Juene Noor and later His Majesty King Hussein and Juene Noor visited an Austrian S.O.S. village and the dream became a reality.

Worldwide projects

There are more than 500 projects which were initiated and sponsored by the Austrian based S.O.S. Kinderdorf-Verlag including 240 children's villages spread throughout the globe. The other projects are training centres, model farms, schools and health clinics. "We always stress associated projects in that if we build a village and the nearby community lacks a kindergarten or a school, S.O.S. builds one," Mr. Von Nidda said.

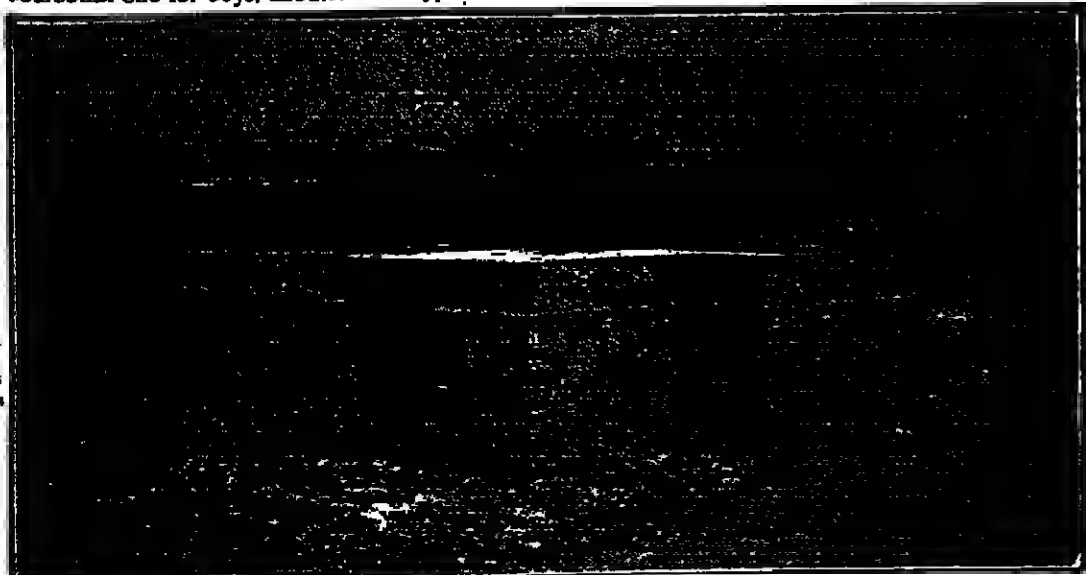
More than 5,000,000 private European donors contribute

yearly to the organisation as friends of the S.O.S. villages.

The founder of the S.O.S. villages, Mr. Gemeiner, was born in 1919. His own mother died when he was only five years old and although he was raised by his brothers, sisters and father he never forgot the loss of his mother.

After the Second World War, he studied medicine at Wilkeirch University and witnessed the post-war tragedy of many homeless or parentless children. This led him to establish the first S.O.S. village in Imst, Tyrol and the idea spread from there to more than 76 countries. In the Middle East there are two villages in Lebanon, three in Egypt and one each in Syria, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and now one in Jordan.

In an S.O.S. publication, the organisation's founder Gemeiner said: "The reward for our work, our trouble and our sacrifice is the happy laughter of the twenty thousand children in the S.O.S. children's villages all over the world, who now have a permanent home and a family of their own."



A typical S.O.S. family house under construction at the Tabbarbour children's village in Jordan (J.T. file photo)

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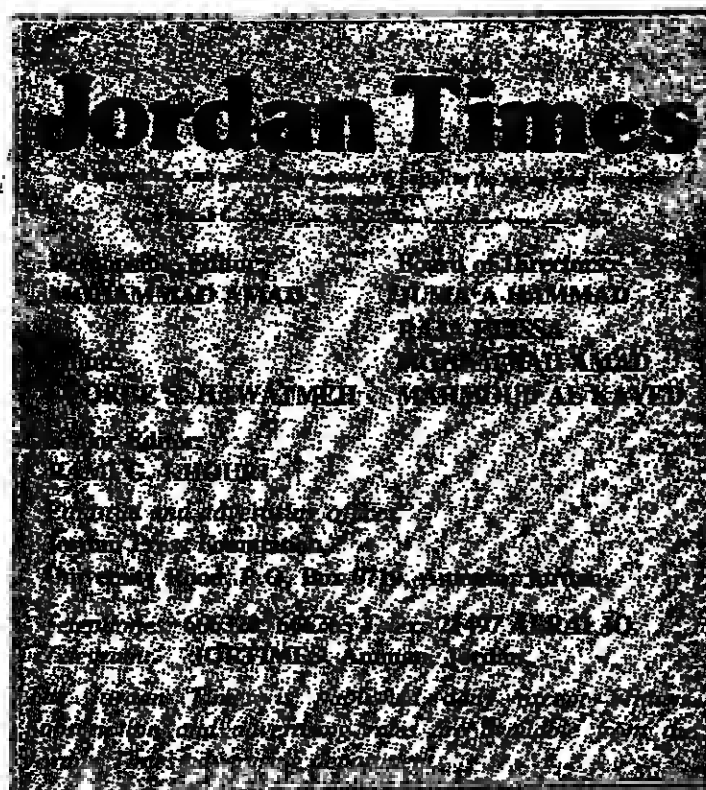
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Bright spot in dark sky

IN SPITE of the continuous infighting and disarray in Arab ranks, hardly a day passes by without new and heroic acts by Palestinian and Lebanese resistance groups, whether inside Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, or the Israeli occupied territories in South Lebanon. In the past week alone, several guerrilla and suicide attacks were carried out against Israeli and Israeli-backed targets such as the Labi militias in Israel's so-called "security zone". Anti-occupation protests are also continuing — in all forms and under all circumstances, most of the time.

Demoralised by fratricidal conflicts, and faced with Israel's sophisticated machinery of repression, Arab resistance to the occupation would not be expected to mount — even to continue under these difficult circumstances. But it is, and the phenomenon is one big bright spot in an otherwise dark Arab sky.

What does this mean? What does the experience teach us? The first cardinal lesson is that there can be no peace made or sustained through invasion and occupation. Secondly, that the hundreds of thousands of Israeli troops and their surrogate militias, the best weaponry in the world and the most gruesome example of superpower and international apathy and foot-dragging, cannot kill the spirit of resistance by the oppressed.

The third lesson that has to be learned is that peace in the Middle East could never be achieved through Israel's outblown concern about its security; and in this respect, the West in particular has to understand that seeing Israeli "security" as the bottom line of any developments towards regional peace is as false and empty as the self-proclaimed ability of the Israeli army to assure the safety of Tel Aviv and northern Galilee by occupying the West Bank and Gaza and invading Lebanon.

But perhaps more important than anything else is the fact that the true spirit of Arab resistance cannot be undermined by whatever feuds the Arab states choose to have among them. For it must have been clear to those who have given their lives voluntarily and willingly, in Palestine and Lebanon, that there is only one way to make Israel accept Arab rights, and that is by confronting its schemes and threats head-on — not by fighting among ourselves, and blaming others for our troubles.

It is shame that if these are lessons we are not really learning from them. The least we could do for those men and women who are daily sacrificing their lives to liberate the land is to rise above our petty differences and close ranks behind their cause.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Kuwait's security is a Jordanian concern

THE EXPLOSIONS that killed and maimed innocent people in Kuwait on Thursday created resentment and fury and indignation in the hearts of the Jordanian people and leaders. In a first reaction to these explosions, Jordan offered to send Kuwait help to enable it combat terrorism. This stand reflects Jordan's national commitment and reemphasises Jordan's deep faith in pan-Arab cooperation and solidarity in the face of terror directed against any Arab country.

Kuwait's security is part of the whole Arab nation's security, and the terrorists who launch attacks in Kuwait are directing their terror against the whole Arab nation and its interests. Not only Jordan, but all the Arab countries have a duty to come to the help of Kuwait and support its endeavours to fend off the danger and stem terrorism.

Jordan has earlier urged all Arab states to rally behind Iraq in its war against aggression, hegemony and ambition by neighbouring states; and it is now appealing to all Arabs to come to the help of Kuwait and its people, who are now facing terrorism.

It is a battle against all Arabs, and we have a pan-Arab national commitment to honour.

Al Dustour: Clear message to Arabs

THE EXPLOSIONS in Kuwait on Thursday carry a clear message to all Arab countries that their security is in danger, and that Kuwait will not be the last Arab country to suffer from the consequences. It is a message to all Arab leaders warning them that their countries too will be exposed to sabotage.

The series of explosions, the hijacking operations and the assassination attempts carried out in the Arab region over the past few weeks serve as a form of declaration of war on all the Arab countries by the terrorists and their backers in this region. The whole Arab area is now exposed to a wave of crimes and acts of outlaws and criminals, cast out of the Arab society.

The sympathy which Kuwait received from other Arab governments reflects the true support and backing by these governments for Kuwait's efforts to stem terrorism and also emphasises the need for a pan-Arab strategy in the face of terrorists and their actions. Certain Arab capitals are behind some of these terrorist attacks, and this fact makes it incumbent upon the rest to be on their guard, and to take concerted action to end this serious situation.

With their terrorist acts, certain Arab countries hope to divert world attention from the real problems in our region. We call on all Arab states to rally behind Kuwait and help it repel the danger.

Sawt Al Shaab: Evident Iranian terror

IRAN is definitely behind the terrorist attacks in Kuwait, an Arab country which has hosted Iranians and nationals from other countries for so long and offered them opportunity to make fortunes and wealth. Iran has also been behind the terrorist activities in Lebanon turning one Muslim faction against another, and planting death and destruction everywhere.

The wave of terrorism in Kuwait is designed as a means of sowing dissension among the peoples of the Arabian Gulf countries and in response to Kuwait's support for Iraq against Iran in the current Gulf war. The innocent people who fell as a result of the explosions in Kuwait and the earlier attempt on the life of its emir, in addition to the Iranian sea piracy against Kuwaiti ships are all acts of terrorism directed not only against Kuwait but rather against the whole Arab nation. It is a form of Iranian pressure on Kuwait to refrain from extending help to Iraq in the war and a way for creating disarray in Arab ranks.

The terrorist groups and paid assassins now carrying out the wave of bombings in Kuwait have one objective: to destroy the security of Arab countries and weaken Arab ranks in the face of their common enemies.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Central Bank hikes interest on JDs

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

BANK'S LENDING rate in Jordan rose by half a percentage point as of last week to become 10.5 per cent.

The Central Bank of Jordan issued a new circular raising the ceiling of interest rate charged by commercial banks to their customers from 8.75 per cent to nine per cent per annum, and commission rate from 1.25 per cent to 1.5 per cent — thus making the total cost of funds 10.5 per cent per annum.

According to the Central Bank's circular, the new regulations will not be applicable retroactively to current loans and lines of credit until maturity. The new higher rate will

apply to new bank facilities and to the old facilities upon their renewal.

Apparently, the transitional month, pending the transfer of authority to the new governor as of Aug. 1, 1985, will be very active and full of changes, new regulations and adjustments to the banking sector's activities.

As noticed last week, I was not enthusiastic about the alteration in the banks' liquidity formula, which took place a few days earlier, and brought new items which did not previously constitute liquidity into account. However, we are of the opinion that raising interest rate was a right step called for

by the prevailing economic circumstances in the country.

Some observers may think that this step came too late, and that the dose was too little to make a difference, and that raising interest rate on the Jordan dinar came on a background of declining interest rates on the dollar and other European currencies.

They may also observe that higher interest rate may discourage new investments, especially when real interest rate in the range of seven per cent (nominal interest rate of 10.5 per cent minus inflation rate of 3.5 per cent) is too high.

All these observations could

be right, at least in part; yet a late step is much better than refraining from taking the appropriate measures indefinitely. The factors depressing new investments are hardly related to the cost of financing.

On the other hand, the present time may be ripe to repatriate part of the Jordanian private capital abroad, which may have gone after the higher returns. Such capital is now disappointed due to the weakening dollar and lower interest rate.

The assumption that personal savings respond to higher interest rate is not accepted without reservations. Yet it is

more likely that higher interest rate will encourage domestic savings and investments in financial assets. Besides, it may give an incentive to converting part of the assets dominated in foreign currencies to Jordan dinars.

This is especially so, because our exchange rate does not in any way reflect changes in interest or inflation rate, or the balance of payments outcome, or indeed any other internal factor. As far as exchange rate and external economy are concerned, we are on the special drawing rights (SDR's) standard.

This leads us to the feasibility of de-regulation of interest rate which, if floated, will find its own level under the supply and demand forces of the market, instead of going on in our endless arguments on whether interest rate, must be lowered or raised by orders to serve our purpose or another.

Finally, the rates of interest paid on savings accounts and time deposits should also be raised, or left to the competition and market forces. Otherwise the new circular will have the effect of widening the margin of gross profitability of banks by overcharging debtor without passing part of the benefit to the depositors.

Opposition says Mitterrand planning to pervert constitution

By Claire Rosenberg
Reuter

PARIS — President Francois Mitterrand's refusal to abdicate certain presidential powers if his Socialist Party loses parliamentary elections next year has infuriated the opposition and sparked fears of a constitutional crisis.

Predicting his line of action if the conservative opposition wins the March 1986 National Assembly elections as expected, Mr. Mitterrand said this week he not only planned to remain in office until the end of his mandate in 1988 but also aimed to keep defence and foreign policy as his exclusive preserve.

"If foreign policy were removed (from my control) by a change in

majority, that would be a coup d'etat," he said.

Dubbed "bombshell" by political commentators, the statement has sparked off a stormy debate on how to define the president's powers as set down by the law.

It has also fuelled mounting public concern that France is heading for a constitutional crisis next year.

Under the constitution drawn up by General De Gaulle in 1958, the presidential term was set at seven years and the legislative term at five. But since the system began, a president has never faced a parliamentary majority of a different political creed.

Jacques Toubon, secretary-general of the mainstream Neo-Gaullist RPR Party, accused Mr.

Mitterrand of twisting the law to suit his own ends instead of referring to the "functions of the state laid down by the constitution and its practice".

"It is inadmissible that a man, faced with a popular vote against him, should decide on his own whim how the state should operate," Mr. Toubon told reporters.

Although RPR leaders, who see themselves as the heirs of De Gaulle, grudgingly admitted Mr. Mitterrand had a constitutional right to stay in office until the end of his mandate, the prickly question of how to share out power between the president and the prime minister previously had been avoided.

According to Mr. Toubon, Mr. Mitterrand's role if forced to co-exist with a conservative gov-

ernment would be to confine himself to the strict letter of the law and act as "constitutional watchdog" and "supreme guarantor of the state, the nation and the constitution".

But Mr. Mitterrand, apparently referring to yet another chapter of the document which defines the president as "the guarantor of national independence and territorial integrity", sees his role as supreme defence and foreign policy-maker.

For political analysts, the row highlights the anomaly between the legislative and presidential terms written into the constitution as well as the ambiguities left by De Gaulle.

The president, for example, is constitutionally defined as the "chief of the armed forces" but the prime minister remains res-

ponsible for "national defence" and "government action".

To further confuse matters, an amendment introduced in 1964 gives the president the power to push the button that will send France's nuclear weapons to war against an enemy.

As for foreign policy, the situation also remains unclear. A strict interpretation such as Mr. Toubon's would put foreign affairs under the heading "government action", which means it is the domain of the prime minister.

But according to the tradition set by De Gaulle, major foreign policy options have since 1958 been left in the hands of the president. De Gaulle, who took power during France's last colonial war in Algeria, kept the government out of foreign affairs to

avoid opposition from even his own ministers during his bid to end the Algerian war.

But with trade and defence options intricately linked to foreign policy, analysts say it would be excessively difficult for Mr. Mitterrand to retain foreign affairs without consulting with the government.

Mr. Mitterrand, on the other hand, can hardly be expected to represent France internationally next year if he washes his hands of all real power, analysts say.

"Will he force De Gaulle to turn over in his tomb by contending himself with opening flower-shows?" Le Monde said this week. "Nobody could seriously believe Mr. Mitterrand had developed a passion for horticulture so late in life."

Syria said to be intent on rebuilding prestige in Lebanon

By Tod Robberson
Reuter

DAMASCUS — Marathon meetings between Lebanese Muslim leaders and Syrian officials here last week marked an intensive Syrian effort to regain lost prestige among its Palestinian and Lebanese allies, political observers say.

Recent fighting in mainly Muslim west Beirut between Shi'ite forces and Druze, Sunni militiamen and Palestinian fighters destroyed previously strong Muslim solidarity there and left many groups questioning their allegiance to Syria, they added.

"Syria is very much concerned and worried about the events currently taking place in Lebanon," said an editorial about the Damascus talks in the official English-language Syrian Times.

A once-strong bond between Lebanon's two most powerful Syrian-backed militias, the Shi'ite Amal movement and mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), unravelled when Amal moved against three Beirut Palestinian refugee camps last May.

Five weeks of bitter fighting that followed killed some 640 people, wounded 2,500, displaced thousands of residents and left the

camp mostly uninhabitable, relief agency officials said.

Damascus-based Palestinian groups and Syria's main regional allies, Libya and Iran, urged Syria to restrain Amal and, once the fighting ended, were left wondering why Syria did not intervene sooner, diplomats said.

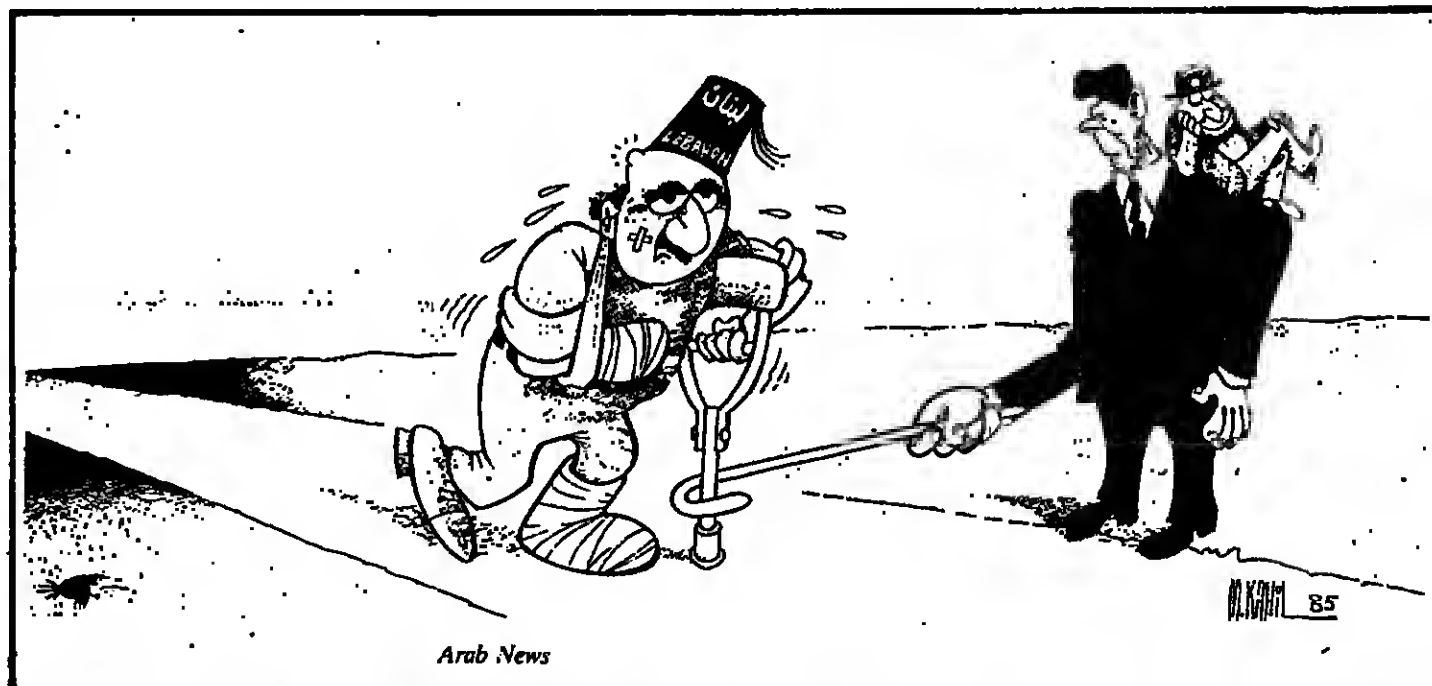
"Syria's reputation is at stake," a senior Lebanese official told reporters in Beirut. "I'm sure they'll do their best to stop the fighting and come up with a solution, and they'll have to move fast because Syrian prestige is beginning to erode."

Syrian political sources say that although Damascus is the main power broker in Lebanon, it is not the only one. They admit some Palestinian and Lebanese groups began fishing for new allies after the events of May and June.

They add that although the Damascus talks concluded with new security plans for Lebanon and a new formal alliance emerged between Amal and PSP, there is no guarantee that inter-militia fighting is finished.

"Syria can advise, but cannot impose," one political source said, referring to plans for all non-state armed forces to disband and disarm completely.

Syria this week took new steps to bolster solidarity among its allies and regain lost political ground, diplomats said.



ies and regain lost political ground, diplomats said.

Syrian Defence Minister Mustapha Tlass met Libya's leader Muammar 'Adhafi in Tripoli to patch up relations strained by the Amal-Palestinian fighting, they said. Libya is one of the main financial backers for the Damascus-

based Palestinian "National Salvation Front".

Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam mediated talks between leaders of the Palestinian front, Amal leader Nabih Berri and PSP chief Walid Junblatt, the official Syrian News Agency SANA said.

Syria also sent a team of engineers, construction workers and heavy equipment to rebuild the Beirut refugee camps in a move to "raise the morale of the civilians" there, SANA said.

A Syrian political source said there was still much work to be

done to regain lost ground, and he pointed out that similar Syrian-mediated security plans to halt fighting in Beirut have worked only temporarily.

"If there is no solution this time," he warned, "more fighting — heavy fighting — is inevitable."

London wilts under unprecedented invasion of U.S. lawyers

By Roald Thomson
Reuter

LONDON — Thousands of American lawyers and judges have taken out a short-term lease on high-life in London, cramming top hotels, theatres and restaurants in the biggest U.S. invasion of the British capital since World War II.

The natives are restless. Londoners might as well forget about renting cars, dining out or booking theatre seats while the American Bar Association (ABA) is in session here next week.

Nearly 10,000 U.S. attorneys and judges with an equal number of spouses and other relatives have descended on a city already seething with tourists. It is now somewhat rare in Piccadilly to hear an English accent.

About 120 hotels have been taken over by the lawyers, who have rented 4,000 hire cars for the five-day meeting. It will be opened amid parliamentary pomp on Monday, with delegates treated to a speech of welcome by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

"This is the biggest convention ever held here," said a spokesman of the London Visitor and Convention Bureau. "It may in fact be the largest off-shore convention staged anywhere in the world."

Britain is listed as "off-shore" in the ABA calendar of annual meetings, which come to this country every 14 years.

This time it is a bonanza for dollar-hungry British hoteliers and travel agents who estimate that the lawyers will spend at least 30 million sterling (\$40 million) on business with pleasure.

Many are booked to venture out of London on trips that will take them everywhere from placid tour of rural England to dioner at Maxim's in Paris, lavish train journeys on the Orient Express to Venice — and even a glimpse of Siberia.

About 5700 buys a visit to the Soviet Union, including three days on the Trans-Siberian Railway, according to American Express, the ABA's official travel agents in London.

"We have set up a rigorous business programme for the delegates but we do not dictate what they do with their free time," said convention organiser Ernie Guy.

Mr. Guy 62, has spent the past five months in London handling the headaches and the hassles that inevitably attend such a massive operation. "I get up at 2.30 every

morning to do the paperwork while the phones are silent," he told Reuters.

The ABA, with 315,000 members, describes itself as the largest professional voluntary organisation in the world. Its leaders are often called to testify in congressional hearings.

One of Mr. Guy's biggest problems arose early this year when an independent travel agent of an unscrupulous nature found a way of massively overcharging delegates using credit cards to buy London theatre tickets.

Some of the victims found they were paying 8,000 sterling (\$11,000) for two seats at the hit musical "Cats".

"British banks and credit card companies have handled this rip-off and none of the lawyers will be

out of pocket," Mr. Guy said. "The agent has fled overseas but the police know where he is and will be applying for extradition."

Mr. Guy, the ABA's director of meetings, hailed Scotland Yard for its organisation of security safeguards for the thousands of American lawyers. "I've never seen such cooperation from a police force," he said.

London municipal councillor David Simpson commented: "The city will be an American enclave next week. There has been nothing like it since the GI's moved in during the war."

"Some residents are grouching, but does it really matter if we find it difficult to get cabs or tickets for shows?"

Chief Justice Warren Burger and former Vice President Walter

Mondale will be among the U.S. luminaries attending the convention.

On the opening day Mr. Mondale is due to chair a session on international collaboration against terrorism, with contributions from FBI Director William Webster and Scotland Yard chief Sir Kenneth Newman.

The opening ceremony will be conducted on Monday in the Palace of Westminster by Britain's resplendently-robed Lord Chancellor Hailsham.

Mrs. Thatcher will deliver the welcome address in the glitter and grandeur of London's Royal Albert Hall.

Then the convention will split into scores of separate meetings on such subjects as litigation costs on both sides of the Atlantic.

Caribbean left begins to rebuild after the Grenada setback

By Keith Grant
Reuter

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados — Still dazed from the Grenada crisis in October 1983, left-wing groups in the Caribbean have begun taking steps to rebuild support and patch up bitter feelings between them.

Nearly all islands in the English-speaking Caribbean now have left-wing parties, ranging from orthodox Socialists to far-left Marxist groups, though few have more than about five per cent of popular support.

"Their showing so far is pitiful, but they are articulate and have

something of an audience," a Western diplomat said.

Events in Grenada, where left Prime Minister Maurice Bishop was ousted and killed in a bloody coup by hard-liners, shocked Caribbean left-wing groups and set back Cuban efforts to assist a cohesive regional movement.

But this month's elections in Dominica, where extreme leftists won three seats in parliament, prompted Prime Minister Eugenia Charles to warn that Marxist influence could be on the upswing again.

Rosie Douglas, an avowed Marxist and frequent visitor to Cuba, described his constituency win in Dominica as a positive sign

for leftist political organisations. "I think it points a direction for all the poor and working people in the Caribbean."

Grenada's invasion by U.S. forces spurred a move to the right in the Caribbean, but this has been checked to some extent by the apparent inability of governments in Jamaica, Grenada and elsewhere to overcome their economic problems.

"There just aren't enough jobs, and escape valves such as emigration to other islands have been stopped," the diplomat said. But 6,000 still leave the eastern Caribbean each year for the United States.

New potential social pressure

points in Trinidad and the Dutch Antilles, both hit by the world oil slump, are seen as additional fertile ground for leftist groups.

Among these, Trevor Munroe's Workers' Party of Jamaica (WPJ) has sought to capitalise on social discontent at Prime Minister Edward Seaga's economic policies. A February poll showed it had doubled its previous support to 10 per cent.

A university professor and son of a high court judge, Mr. Munroe has created an image as a leader of the Caribbean left and has strong links with hard-line fringe parties in Barbados, St. Vincent and Trinidad.

"There is something of an old

school tie system among Caribbean leftists, many of whom are middle-class academics," said Colin Hope, editor of the Barbados-based newspaper Caribbean Contact.

Havana, whose Caribbean influence was severely hit by the Grenada coup, has since been working quietly to restore leftist unity.

There are moves to hold a pan-Caribbean conference of leftist groups.

Despite the uphill task, leftist leaders are confident they can mobilise popular discontent in the islands.

"This is only the beginning of a

new movement to liberate our country from the control of the big landowners and big capitalists," Mr. Douglas said.

Kendrick Radix, chairman of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) which won five per cent of the vote in Grenada last December, sees disillusion at the failure so far of Herbert Blaize's pro-American government to solve unemployment problems as favouring the left.

"The Grenada events were a disaster for the left but what is clear is that the right doesn't have the solutions. We are the party of the future," he said.

سكوا في الجول

مكة زمانه



Mechanical auger bores into a northwestern Arkansas hillside as line men prepare to install a new pole near Hogeye. On such stonebound terrain, the Ozarks Electric Cooperative upgrades service for its 31,000 members along 4,810 miles of line. When the Rural

Electrification Administration was created 50 years ago, only one American farm in 10 had electricity. Now only one in 100 is without the power that revolutionized rural life (National Geographic photo)

Dark when the sun went down

By Kenneth C. Danforth

HOGYE, Ark. — A water-filled ditch and a high bank lay between the road and the place where Jackie Pergeson had to put up an electric pole. He had to get his truck over there, somehow, or he and his crew would not be able to use its big auger to drill the hole, nor its long mechanical arm to wield the new pole into place.

Mr. Pergeson sought out a farm woman and asked if he could drive across her fields. She readily gave him permission.

"People usually cooperate," said Mr. Pergeson. As well they might. Mr. Pergeson is a line foreman for the Ozarks Electric Cooperative, which is upgrading service to its 31,000 members in nine Arkansas and Oklahoma counties. The members own the co-op, so when they're helping its workers, they're helping themselves and their neighbors.

Darkness fell early. A lot of people around here still don't take electricity for granted. Fifty years ago, these rugged hills and much of rural America got dark when the sun went down. Only 10 per cent of the nation's farms were electrified. There were no poles to "change out" around Hogeye; there were no poles.

Then, in May 1935, President Roosevelt signed an executive order creating the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), the first salvo in a revolution that brought electric power to rural America and Jackie

Pergeson to Hogeye.

Mr. Pergeson drove through the farmer's gate. To get to the new pole site, he had to circle the barn, a steep climb. The rocky terrain looked solid, but it had rained hard the day before, and the thin soil was like black grease beneath his tires. Their deep treads just spun around.

Without so much as an oath, Mr. Pergeson got down out of the truck, took a cable from a winch on the front bumper, and trudged 100 feet up the hillside with the cable over one shoulder. He fastened the cable around a white oak, then returned to his truck to winch it up to the tree. To get up the hill he had to use three separate trees, winching from one to the other.

And so, working their way north from Bug Saddle, Mr. Pergeson and his crew inched toward Hogeye changing out about eight poles a day. (Down in a valley where the rocks aren't such a problem, they can set 20 poles in a day.)

Until the REA was set up, farms, nonfarm country households, and rural businesses all toiled without the light or the machines that could have lifted them from a life remarkably similar to that of their pioneer forbears.

Rum before butter

Yet, electricity was an established and easily available necessity in cities. Little Rock got electric lights in 1883; five of the first nine customers were saloons.

Nationwide, in cities, bright lights and electric trolleys, washing machines, stoves, irons, vacuum cleaners, fans, and movies had been taken for granted for a generation and more. They lured young people away from the farms and helped to create two nations — urban consumers who could make wonders with the flick of a switch, and rural producers who fed everyone at the cost of a lifetime of beastlike drudgery.

The farmers wanted electricity. The stockholder-owned power companies would not give it to them because there was no profit in it. They could get more customers in a city block than in 100 square miles of farmland. Cows were milked in the darkness and the milk spoiled because there was no refrigeration. Women were stooped before they were 40 because they had to haul thousands of gallons of water from wells and springs.

Kitchens were infernos in the summer. When fruit and vegetables had to be canned just as they ripened, and someone had to cut the wood for the stove and empty the ash box. There was little escape from the boredom that settled in at nightfall, reading by a flickering kerosene wick is ruinous to the eyes.

The idea behind the REA was that country people, who were used to helping each other with construction, planting, and harvest, would be encouraged to band together in cooperatives to bring themselves the power that electric companies had denied them.

Today, Ozarks Electric Cooperative is one of more than 1,000 rural electric systems in the 46 states where the REA is active. Although the rural system average fewer than five consumers per mile of line, their lines stretch across 70 per cent of the country's landmass. The REA itself has no electricity to sell; its function is to lend money to independent local cooperatives at favorable rates.

Not everyone is pleased with the way the co-ops go about their business. Roy Reed, a Hogeye cattle farmer, teacher, and writer, complains: "I'm still sore at that bunch. It took 'em three months to get electricity up from the road to my house. They wanted to cut right across my homestead without any regard for aesthetics. I wanted them to go a longer way where they'd have to cut down fewer trees. When they found out I wouldn't budge, they gave me a real good lettin'-alone."

Hill people made do

A few mountains away to the east, Mildred Gullledge recalls that it was 1948 — after World War II halted rural electrification — before she and her family got electricity. They lived, as they do now, in Davis Hollow. Mrs. Gullledge was eight then.

"There was already electricity running up the highway, but the people that lived off the road like we did had a harder time getting it. There was three families that lived in this hollow, and we all had to sign up that we would take the electricity. Otherwise they wouldn't run it up here."

"Until then, well, we had what you had to have if you didn't have electricity. It was real exciting to see them setting those first poles and to know we were actually going to be modern. But the most exciting thing, I think, was the refrigerator, once we got the lights." — National Geographic feature.

'King's Cross' to become saucy but safe

By Reg Gratton

SYDNEY — Tourists flocking to Sydney's notorious King's Cross Red-Light district are finding that the prostitutes are smartly dressed, the streets clean and the drug addicts rare.

Dramatic changes in "The Cross", an area which has embarrassed many Australians, can be put down in large part to a community crusade spearheaded by a 54-year-old grandmother.

Heather Currey took on the presidency of the district's chamber of commerce, which had been defunct, in April. She has inspired a revolution in what was dubbed the country's drug bazaar. Mrs. Currey, who has been part-owner of a wax museum in King's Cross for the last 13 years, told Reuters it happened suddenly.

"I walked outside, looked at the drug addicts and dirt and said: 'That's it, we must clean it all up.' She agreed to take on the running of a revived chamber if she could choose her own people. She wants to attract tourists back to the night-life of King's Cross without fear of being mugged by drug addicts. She also wants to make it a safe place for those who live there."

"We want a lovely atmosphere so that residents here can live peacefully and happily with the saucier side," she said. "During the day we want to create a family environment and during the night a saucy adult area."

She sent out letters, spoke to police chiefs and met New South Wales state Premier Neville Wran.

The government, police and 14,500 residents and shopkeepers have for the first time worked on a campaign together to drive the drug trade out of the area.

Police mounted the country's largest heroin crackdown and have arrested more than 700 peo-

ple on drugs charges in and around King's Cross since early this year. Now only a handful of addicts remain in the notorious village area of "The Cross" where Mrs. Currey was regularly screamed at and spat on when she tried to move people on.

The Reverend Ted Noffs, a radical clergyman who runs an interdenominational Christian centre in the district and has been at the forefront of the fight against drug abuse there, said that people now felt safe again.

Father Noffs, who has buried more than 160 youngsters killed by heroin addiction over the past 10 years, said it was community anger which finally triggered the police initiative.

"Mrs. Currey saw that the city council and the mayor were ineffective. She steps in and says, 'I am an ordinary citizen but I have some say in this. Lots of others have joined behind her.'"

Mrs. Currey's vision for the area is a grand one: "I want it to be the safest, cleanest, sauciest, shiniest area in the world."

The authorities have agreed in principle to commit one million dollars (\$650,000 U.S.) to help

beautify the area. Mrs. Currey says sex is in "The Cross" to stay and has met more than 80 prostitutes and visited brothels and strip joints.

"I have told the girls on the street they must clean their acts up. I am going up to them now and saying, 'You may think I am crazy but it is nice to see you dress so well.' The girls are very receptive."

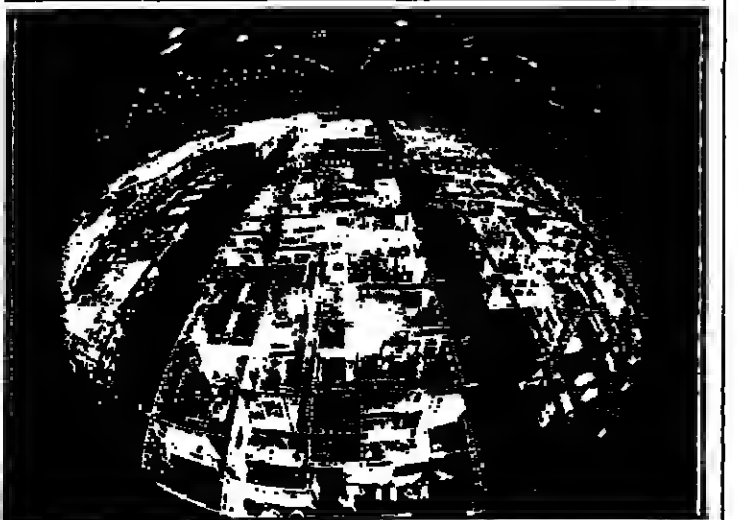
The attractions of various brothels will be a feature of a booklet her chamber of commerce is producing soon to place in the many hotels and restaurants of King's Cross.

"Some of the brothels are magnificent and are run very strictly, very hygienically. The girls are checked (for disease) at least twice a week," she said.

Mrs. Currey discussed with the state government the implementation of a health card for prostitutes who are growing increasingly alarmed at the risk of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

Premier Wran has said he would consider a card system if the prostitutes agreed.

"The girls are delighted by the idea," Mrs. Currey said.



BUSINESS COOPERATION: At the "Antiservice technika-85" exhibition in Krasnaya Presnya. Photo by TASS.

Tourists flow again into Bulgaria

By David Storey
Reuters

VARNA, Bulgaria — After three lean years for Bulgaria's summer resorts Western tourists are again packing into the campus-like hotel complexes on the Black Sea.

Both here and on the Romanian coast to the north package tours for the lower end of the market in West Germany, Britain, France and Scandinavia are booming.

"We are once more in vogue," said Todor Nanov, vice-president of the Bulgarian National Tourism Association. Bookings were up by about 25 per cent on last year, he said.

But many of the basic problems which have marred the industry in these Communist states since mass tourism from the west began 35 years ago still persist.

While appreciating the fine beaches and safe bathing, which make the coast ideal for families and older people, many visitors still complain of slow, offhand service and dull food.

Local officials, like Peter Apostolov, director of the 12,500-bed Albena Complex north of Varna, concede that many facilities urgently need improving.

"We are not investing in expanding the facilities in the near

future, but on raising the quality," he said.

While extolling the local advantages, including sunshine, sandy beaches and colourful folklore, he agreed some visitors were "not fully satisfied — they demand high quality services".

The facilities are rudimentary. Many of the hotels were built in a hurry, with inferior materials in the drab style of serried apartment blocks.

The Bulgarian resorts are no place for tourists seeking souvenirs. "There's virtually nothing to buy here. We wanted to send some postcards and we couldn't even find a pen for sale," said middle-aged British visitor at Albena.

Albena, named after a legendary Bulgarian beauty, is built between a 12 kilometre beach and a protected forest. It is the latest of three self-contained tourist villages of concrete hotels, restaurants and sporting facilities.

This season it was fully booked from May 28, and official figures for the first month showed a 35 per cent increase in tourists over 1984, Mr. Apostolov said.

Officials are hoping to match Bulgaria's peak year of 1981, which was followed by three years in which the number of Western

tourists, the bulk of them West Germans, fell sharply.

Official figures show 2.15 million foreigners, from East and West, came in 1981 but this dropped by 10 per cent in 1982.

Mr. Apostolov said there were a number of reasons, including excessive prices and a general drop in world tourism for economic reasons. He said many people also stayed away because of the image of Bulgaria created in the West.

Bulgaria was actually hit by a series of bomb explosions last year, including a small blast near Varna airport, where the holiday charters land.

The authorities, blaming foreign subversives out to disrupt Bulgaria's peace, have taken steps to prevent any repetition of the attacks, including strict security measures at the airport.

The tourists seem also not to have been put off last winter by reports of violent clashes in rural areas between the authorities and the ethnic Turkish minority during a campaign to make them adopt Bulgarian names.

Investment in beach holidays is being lightly restricted in the next few years as Bulgaria builds up its winter sports areas as part of its bid to stage the 1992 Winter Olympics.

A new complex is planned, as well as improvements to the present Spartan facilities at Borovetz, Pamporovo and on Vitosha mountain overlooking Sofia.

Much has to be done. "They're building up the infrastructure, but you have to be a fanatic to want to ski here now. You basically just get slope of snow — very little in the way of apres ski," said one Western diplomat.

Tourist officials in neighbouring Romania expect some 300,000 Western visitors at their Black Sea resorts this year, and say bookings are up by some 10 per cent.

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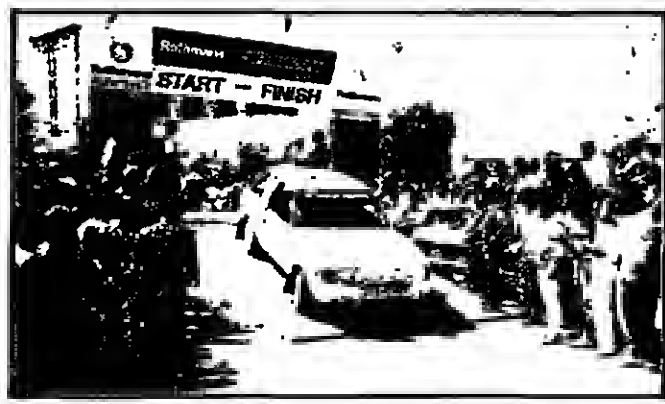
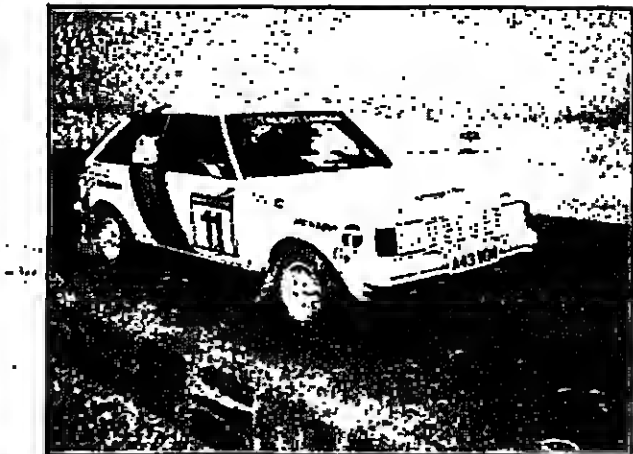


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Eng. M.S. Kellani
President
Water Authority

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Hajri, Jepson win top honours in Jordan Rally

By P.V. Vivekanand and Rana Sabbagh

AMMAN — Her Highness Princess Mouna Saturday awarded trophies and prizes to the winners of the Jordan Rally Championship which concluded here Friday with Saeed Al Hajri of Qatar emerging as the overall winner.

Hajri and his co-driver John Spiller, who drove their Porsche SCRS 911 to victory with a five-minute edge over Michel Saleh of Kuwait in an Opel Manta 400, were awarded four prizes — the overall winners trophy, which included a JD 500 cash prize and trophies for the best driver team, the best vehicle in Group B cars and the best in Class 10 vehicles.

Saleh and co-driver Hassan Ibn Shaddour of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) won the second place trophy which included JD 300 cash prize, and another prize for the highest placed national team.

Mohammad Ibn Sulayyem and co-driver John Daniels of the UAE, whose Toyota Celica T clocked the third best time with a dif-

ference of 16 minutes from Saleh's Opel were awarded the third prize which included JD 200 cash prize.

George Khayyat and Bill Gwynne (Nissan 240 RS), David Jepson and Raymond Millward (Talbot Sunbeam TT) and Issa Halabi and Ziad Hamzah (Toyota Corolla), all of them Jordanian entrants, were the winners of the fourth, fifth and sixth places and their prizes included JD 150, JD 125 and JD 100 respectively.

Jamal Marafie and Adeq Ashkanani (Kuwaiti entrants — Datsun 160 J), Suhail Marar and Peter Messer (Jordan — Toyota Corolla), Halitham Mufti and Terry Thorp (Jordan — Daihatsu Charmant), Mamdouh Khayyat and Tony McMahon (Saudi Arabia — Toyota Corolla GT), Abbas Al

Mousawi and G. Butterworth (Qatar — Daihatsu Rocky 4WD), Ahmad Zaferi and Ghazi Zaferi (Kuwait — Toyota Celica), Ahmad Al Hilal and Fahed Al Rashed (Kuwait — Range Rover BL), Abdul Ellah Malhas and I. Ghoulah (Jordan — Land Rover Pickup) and Ibrahim Madhloum and Saleh Twal (Bahrain — Mitsubishi Lancer) were placed in the next time positions and were all given prizes for finishing the rally.

Jepson, the national champion of 1984, was also awarded the prize for the best vehicle in Group A Class 5 cars — standard cars with slight modifications and the engine capacity in the range of 1400 cc to 1600 cc — and also won the Hamdi Tabba Trophy.

Marafie won honours in Class 11 vehicles while Mousawi secured the top prizes in Class 12 vehicles and the best placed crew from Qatar.

Khayyat was awarded the Blydenstein Racing Winner Trophy, which is usually given to the best Jordanian driver, the highest-placed private team award.

Halabi won the Mufti Haddad trophy, Hilal won the highest placed national team award and Halitham Mufti was honoured as the highest-placed private team. No trophies were awarded in the Novice Class or the Manufacturers' Class because of the relatively few numbers of participants who made it to the finishing point. Royal Automobile Club (RAC) General Manager Derek Ledger said.

The 1,270-kilometre three-day event was spread over varying terrains in special stages and road sections. On Wednesday, the cars raced off towards the Dead Sea and manoeuvred through the climbs of Arda and the Dibbin forests before returning to

Amman Marriott Hotel. On Thursday and Friday they covered a distance of 1,000 kilometres between Amman and Petra through a tough network of special stages through the desert and the Kings Highway.

All the 15 drivers who could make it to the finish did so amid fierce competition and persisting problems with their vehicles. Some of them suffered major setbacks in maintaining good speed throughout the rally but managed to last the gruelling journey through sheer will and quick wits.

Here are some typical examples:

Ibn Sulayyem: The frail-looking rally ace from the UAE is the leading contender to the 1985 Middle East Rally Championship despite being pushed to the third place in the Jordan event. He has a total of 68 points from three rounds including the Jordan leg as against 56 scored by Hajri.

Ibn Sulayyem had a trouble-free day on Wednesday despite complaints of losing engine power. He faced a major problem with the engine and turbo pressure on Thursday on his way to Petra. The engine was reamed at Petra. He also had to change the suspension of the Toyota Corolla.

Trouble hit him again en route to Amman when the engine problem resurfaced and he lost six minutes because of slow driving. He had to drive over seven kilometres in second gear — probably not more than 45 to 60 kilometres per hour while the rest of the competitors were doing 130 to 160 in the same terrain. The problems were rectified at the end of that particular stage. The winner of the 1985 Jordan rally managed to keep the third position throughout the rest of the rally despite a number of problems, mostly

mechanical, that cropped on Friday.

Mufti: The winner of the third place in the 1984 National Championship, Mufti faced a number of problems in this week's event, starting with almost a disaster when he ran into a non-rally vehicle whose driver disobeyed instructions and insisted on driving into a special stage.

Fortunately, the potential accident was averted and Mufti continued the race. One of the tyres of his Daihatsu blew out and was replaced immediately (in rallies, some drivers can change a tyre in less than two minutes). Further down the race, Mufti found that the first and second gears of the vehicle were crippled and he had to drive on in third and fourth gears. The gearbox was changed at Petra.

Jepson: The winner of the 1984 National Championship, Jepson encountered major problems on the very first day when the gear lever of his Talbot Sunbeam came off and he had to continue the race holding the lever in one hand and facing problems in gear shifts. Clutch problems developed as result.

At the end of the first day, it also became evident that the car needed pushing to get the motor started. However, Jepson continued the race and did a remarkable job of retaining his lead and making it to the finishing line in the fourth place. Apparently the problems were rectified on Thursday by his support team because not much was heard in terms of complaints from the British driver on Friday.

Khayyat: The winner of the second place in the 1984 National Championship, Khayyat was one of the Jordanian participants expected to come off well in the 1985 event and he lived up to the ex-

pectations of his fans despite tyre problems and mechanical setbacks in his Nissan 240 RS.

Mamdouh Khayyat: The only Saudi national to participate in the Jordan event, and the first ever citizen of the Kingdom to drive in a rally in Jordan, Khayyat now occupies the fourth place in the overall race for the 1985 Middle East Rally Championship. Khayyat hit problems with his Corolla on the first day when the camshaft timing belt slipped and he lost 25 minutes. The engine was retimed and the Saudi national champion continued the race and took the 10th position.

Marar: One of the most enthusiastic rally drivers in Jordan, Marar has been participating in every rallying event and speediest in Jordan for the past several years. A very steady and careful driver, Marar has made it to the finishing line in almost every rally he entered and enjoys the reputation of being one of the most determined rally drivers.

In fact, he stood a very good chance of winning the honours of being among Group A cars in this week's event if it was not for an unfortunate navigational mistake on the part of his co-driver Messer which forced the Toyota off the course for a few kilometres, thereby losing precious minutes. Fawzi Sawalha served as Marar's teammate in a number of past rallies until the 1984 UAE leg of the Middle East Rally Championship when Haddad enlisted Sawalha as his navigator.

Abbas Al Mousawi: The veteran Qatari driver who has trained with Hajri for several years switched to a Daihatsu Rocky pick-up for the 1985 Jordan event after suffering a humiliating setback with a Porsche identical to Hajri's in the 1984 rally. Mousawi had a pro-

blem throughout this week's rally: the Rocky's engine leaked oil and at the end of every stage he had to refill oil. The problem became acute when the vehicle was parked during the two overnight stops at the Marriott when no service is supposed to be carried out on the vehicle. It meant that the car was left without oil in the engine for the start the next morning.

Mousawi and his co-driver solved the problem by pushing the car up the starting ramp and filling oil after the flag-off. In the process, they were also losing precious moments.

The story would have been different if the Rocky did not suffer the oil problem, say some rally enthusiasts who have seen the young Qatari's performance in rallies in the Gulf.

For some drivers it was bad luck that forced their retirement from the rally while mechanical problems or accidents were the cause of some others' withdrawal from the rally.

Everyone of those who quit the rally had different stories to tell: Nabil Karam (Opel Ascona; co-driver Samir Zineb). A noted Jordanian driver and the winner of the Desert Castles Rally, the second rallying event in the 1985 Jordan National Rally Championship, Karam was a victim of an unfortunate mistake by his support team who poured water into his fuel tank instead of benzine.

Karam, who was doing well in his timings until the disaster, had to abandon the race on the way back from Petra on Thursday because it was impossible to drain the tank and refill it with benzine and still be on time to make it to the next reporting point.

Nabil Dirani (Nissan 240 RS; co-driver Keith Ferry). Another veteran Jordanian driver who won the Jerash Rally, the first event of the 1985 National Championship, Dirani held out promises of being a serious contender in this week's

event, but his car was plagued by gear problems which developed one day before the rally. The determined Dirani decided to enter the race nevertheless after rectifying the problem. However, the problem surfaced again in few minutes after the start of the rally and Dirani became the first casualty of the rally when he dropped out after covering only one kilometre of the first special stage, on the Amman-Dead Sea route on Wednesday.

George Haddad (Toyota Celica GT; co-driver Fawzi Sawalha). A veteran of several rallies in Jordan and the Gulf, Haddad was leading Group S Class 12 cars and, at the end of the second day, it seemed certain he would secure the honours in the category. But his Toyota Celica developed a major problem in brakes and a scramble for spares and substitutes ensued as he halted past the finishing point at a special stage in Hawa. One of the service vehicles, which carried the essential spares was missing for some eight precious minutes and Haddad had a few minutes to spare when he reported at the next point after the repairs.

He continued the race fairly well, but by then he was pushed to the sixth overall placing in the rally. On his way back from Petra, the Celica burst its suspension after hitting a rock.

Haile Agular (Fiat Abarth; co-driver Saleem Salem). An immensely experienced veteran rally driver for over two decades, Agular suffered his first disappointment of not being able to finish a rally in Jordan on Friday. Despite major problems with the Fiat's gearbox and oil leakage, Agular managed to retain his place in the rally until his way back from Petra on Friday. The problem, which hit him after suffering a series of tyre punctures, became unmanageable after manoeuvring through a desert special stage near Petra.

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FIRST RACE:
For beginner horses,
Distance: 1,600 metres,
Time: 2 minute 2 seconds

HORSE
1ST: M. Raied
2ND: Hana
3RD: Badir Elasheer

OWNER
Mohammad A. El Naby
Nawash M. El Falez
Abdullah A. El Raheem

SECOND RACE:
For third class horses,
Distance: 1,000 metres,
Time: 1 minute 14 seconds

HORSE
1ST: Jawharat
2ND: Elmhakar
3RD: Hanan Mariam
3RD: Sojoud

OWNER
Al El Sattar
Matar
Hamad El Jamany
Mohammad Khalid
El Faiez

THIRD RACE:
For beginner horses,
Distance: 1,000 metres,
Time: 1 minute 8 seconds

HORSE
1ST: Sarim
2ND: Shams Amman
3RD: Fitnih

OWNER
H.H.Late Sherif Nasir
Stable
Khalil Haddadin
H.H. Late Sherif Nasir
Stable

FOURTH RACE:
For beginner horses,
Distance: 1,400 metres,
Time: 1 minute 39 seconds

HORSE
1ST: Majd
2ND: Abu El Taleb
3RD: Shimah

OWNER
Ghalib Haddadin
Mishal El Falez
Hamzih Barjas El
Hadeed

FIFTH RACE:
For third class horses,
Distance: 1,600 metres,
Time:

HORSE
1ST: Jallab
2ND: Ghanim
3RD: El Hmaid

OWNER
H.H.Late Sherif Nasir
Stable
Nimir El Hmoud
H.H.Late Sherif Nasir
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Peking fails to rein overhating economy

PEKING (R) — China's industrial output rocketed by 23.1 per cent in the first six months of the year, despite government measures to rein in the galloping economy.

The state statistical bureau, which announced the figure, said firms must be prevented from blindly seeking high growth. Consumer liquidity was also growing too fast, creating an imbalance in supply and demand.

The surging growth rate is a major worry for China's reforming government, which has already tried to dampen down the over-heated economy with a credit and wages squeeze.

Chinese economists have warned that if the economy is allowed to grow too fast it will cause severe bottlenecks in the supply of energy and raw materials and could undermine the whole package of reforms.

A spokesman for the bureau quoted by the official China News Service said the rapid growth was caused by very high expansion by collective enterprises which are not under the direct control of the state.

While overall industrial output value rose 23.1 per cent in the first half of 1985, the growth rate for state firms was 15.9 per cent compared with 45 per cent for the collective sector, he said.

Total industrial output rose 11.6 per cent in the same period last year and 14 per cent in the full

calendar year, with the economy already dangerously picking up steam towards the end of 1984.

according to Chinese economists.

In the first three months of this year industrial output increased by a dramatic 23 per cent. The government ordered a clampdown on borrowing and took measures to reduce the money supply by importing popular consumer goods to mop up excess liquidity.

Premier Zhao Ziyang said China was aiming for balanced growth and was "not slamming on the brakes or making a big readjustment."

But the measures do not appear to have been tough enough. The spokesman said consumer liquidity was still growing too fast and some small firms were seeking high growth entirely for their own interests.

Meanwhile, China has arranged to borrow \$2 billion from a syndicate of 67 Japanese banks to finance part of its 1986-1990 development programme, the Bank of Tokyo said Friday.

The 10 year loan facility, carrying interest at 1/4 per cent above the London Inter Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR) for the first six years, can be drawn on during the five years from Friday's signing.

It replaces a 1979 arrangement to borrow \$2 billion from 22 Japanese banks which expired last month without being used.

African states want moratorium on debts

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Several Organisation of African Unity (OAU) states attending a pre-summit ministerial meeting here want the continent to declare a moratorium on its \$170 billion of debt, delegates said Friday.

But the proposal was being resisted by more moderate states and the July 18-21 heads of state conference was instead expected to call for an international meeting of donor states and creditors to find a way of easing the debt burden, the delegates added.

They said there had also been calls at the preparatory session for another international conference of all Third World countries to work out a common strategy on debt.

The discussion of what Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, the current OAU chairman, has called "using the debt weapon" is the centre piece of this year's OAU summit which will be devoted mainly to economic affairs.

The delegates declined to say which countries wanted a moratorium, but said they were from the so-called Progressive Bloc of African States.

One delegate, who declined to be identified, said a large majority of OAU states recognised that to declare a moratorium would mean an end to fresh credits and would "rebound on Africa".

But the final resolution would call on donors to find ways to tackle African debts and more funds to be made available to the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, delegates said.

The other main plank of proposals being submitted to delegates is an appeal to African states to raise food production, which has fallen by about one per cent a year over the past decade, according to the least pessimistic Western estimates.

Earlier, Mr. Addebayo Adejide, head of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, urged African governments to devote at least 20 per cent of their annual budgets to food production.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, July 6, '85 and ending Wednesday, July 10, '85. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of Company	Number of Shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Jordan Islamic Bank	1255	3432	2.750	2.690	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	12422	33091	2.620	2.710	1.000
Jordan Golf Bank	17524	28294	1.570	1.620	1.000
Housing Bank	12383	21694	1.790	1.730	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	2250	4050	1.800	1.800	1.000
Industrial Development Bank	975	1591	1.670	1.630	1.000
Petra Bank	8124	38795	4.800	4.600	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	8019	8339	1.040	1.040	1.000
Jordan Finance House	6350	5291	0.840	0.840	1.000
Islamic Investment House	32831	33592	1.060	1.010	1.000
Jordan National Bank	158268	435311	2.660	2.730	1.000
Jordan Investment & Finance Corporation	63534	40639	1.130	1.140	1.000
Finance & Credit Corporation (50%)	8076	4300	1.030	1.040	1.000
Darco Investment & Housing (75%)	11304	5706	0.770	0.750	1.000
Aqarco (75%)	9917	4216	0.090	0.070	1.000
National Portfolio Securities (50%)	68950	17237	0.750	0.750	1.000
National Financial Investments	17700	15011	0.860	0.860	1.000
Jordan Leasing Equipment	1708	1185	0.690	0.700	1.000
Bank of Jordan	937	21575	22.500	23.500	5.000
Arab Bank Ltd.	3480	542670	152.000	156.000	10.000
Jordan Insurance	5604	51772	9.150	9.150	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	3531	4750	1.320	1.350	1.000
Jordan French Insurance	40198	128032	3.120	3.080	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	1200	1320	1.150	1.100	1.000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	2800	1288	0.960	0.960	1.000
Refco Insurance (50%)	4335	1210	0.780	0.780	1.000
Jordan Electric Power	10898	16719	1.540	1.520	1.000
Arab International Hotels	1250	498	0.400	0.390	1.000
Livestock & Poultry	1000	480	0.480	0.480	1.000
Dar Al Sha'b Press	1200	924	0.780	0.770	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	162	147	0.900	0.410	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	500	3125	6.000	6.750	1.000
National Shipping Lines	12577	11575	0.930	0.920	1.000
Management and Consultant	5850	2048	0.530	0.600	1.000
Petra Project & Leasing Equipment	12525	3868	0.810	0.810	1.000
Jordan Dairy	20787	20768	1.000	1.000	1.000
General Mining	2032	3559	1.730	1.770	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	43400	26949	0.640	0.620	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	3859	11773	3.080	3.030	1.000
Industrial Commercial & Agricultural	1327	3662	2.800	2.750	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent	22741	90213	3.950	3.980	1.000
National Steel Industries	5916	7428	1.260	1.250	1.000
Dar Al Dawa for Investment & Development	3558	5045	1.420	1.430	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	49595	41622	0.830	0.830	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	1052	6297	6.100	5.500	1.000
Jordan Ceramic	21120	21769	1.050	1.030	1.000
Jordan Paper & Cardboards Factories	1130	2621	2.340	2.280	1.000
Jordan Phosphates Mines	3281	9969	2.980	3.100	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	1200	1356	1.140	1.130	1.000
Jordan Tanning	3110	5674	1.820	1.830	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	320	109	0.350	0.340	1.000
Jordan Industrial Investment	270	230	0.810	0.850	1.000
National Industries	2167	1346	0.630	0.620	1.000
Chemical Industries	1238	1235	1.010	1.020	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match	3600	2955	0.830	0.830	1.000
Jordan Tobacco & Cigarettes	2122	22592	10.500	11.000	5.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	4901	34628	7.040	7.060	5.000
Jordan Fertilisers	518	2098	4.050	4.050	10.000
Philadelphia Insurance	4000	4520	1.100	1.130	1.000
Jordan Glass Industry	1173	609	0.520	0.520	1.000
Jordan Brewery	205	779	3.700	3.800	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	332	458	1.370	1.340	1.000
Aladdin Industries	200	138	0.680	0.690	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	5000	2500	0.700	0.700	1.000
Industrial Development	50	250	5.000	5.000	1.000
Arab Finance Co. (Jordan)	650	852	1.310	1.310	1.000
Grand Total	754640	1826749			

Airlines pay off Laker creditors but deny guilt

LONDON (R) — The billion-dollar lawsuit over the collapse of Sir Freddie Laker's cheap trans-Atlantic airline has been settled out of court.

Ten leading airlines agreed Friday to pay \$48 million to creditors of the bankrupt Laker Airways — including 14,000 passengers stranded when the airline went bankrupt in 1982.

But they denied the payment was an admission of guilt to Laker's charges that they cut fares in a conspiracy to drive his no-frills London-U.S. service out of business.

"Settlement bears no admission of guilt," said the main defendant, state-run British Airways (B.A.), which announced the settlement Friday after months of tough negotiations.

The deal frees Britain to sell B.A. a stock market flotation which Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has been forced repeatedly to postpone because of the Laker litigation.

Agreement was reached at a meeting in Washington of airline lawyers and Laker liquidator Mr. Christopher Morris.

The airlines also offered personal compensation of \$8 million to Sir Laker, the flamboyant tycoon who founded the airline that made trans-Atlantic travel affordable for hundreds of thousands of people in the 1970s.

But he refused to say if he would accept the payment in return for dropping all claims on the airlines, which include Pan-Am, TWA, Lufthansa, Swissair, SAS and KLM.

"I could not possibly make any comment until I see all the I's dotted and the T's crossed," Sir Laker said in Miami.

The liquidators had been suing the 10 airlines and planemakers McDonnell Douglas in a Washington court for \$1.05 billion.

The suit under U.S. antitrust laws alleged a conspiracy to bankrupt Laker Airways.

Sir Laker could still hold up the flotation of B.A. by launching further lawsuits but government sources

in London said they believed the settlement with the liquidators and creditors would isolate him too far to press on.

Financial advisors had warned the government and the airline that a stock market flotation would not be successful unless the suits in the United States were settled.

The total debts of Laker Airways are estimated now at more than \$400 million.

Anyone owed less than \$50,000 (\$69,000) will be paid in full. Most other creditors will get \$50,000 plus 20 per cent of the balance. Finance houses which lent Laker money to buy planes will get back some of their money.

The agreement has been put before a U.S. judge and court approval of the settlement was expected. Mr. Morris said in Washington Friday.

Sir Laker, who was not involved in the settlement talks, had been given until Aug. 20 to accept the \$8 million offer. Mr. Morris said, Sir Laker told a Washington court in May that he might be prepared to accept \$8 million as his personal compensation.

The U.S. Justice Department began its own investigation of possible anti-trust law violations by the major airlines, but President Reagan ordered the probe dropped late last year.

Still to be settled are attorney fees. The defendants have offered the two law firms that handled the case for Sir Laker and Mr. Morris \$8 million, but the firms have rejected it.

The defendants in the case were 10 airlines together with McDonnell Douglas and McDonnell Douglas Finance Corporation.

The airlines are B.A., British Caledonian, Pan American World Airways, Trans World Airlines, Lufthansa, Swissair, Sabena, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, the French airline UTA and Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS).

U.S. sales fall sharply

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. retail sales suffered their largest decline in a year last month, indicating the economy was continuing its sluggish pace, the Commerce Department said.

Sales of retail goods, a key economic indicator, declined 0.8 per cent in June after a decline of 0.5 per cent in May and an April rise of 3.1 per cent.

Separately, the Labour Department said wholesale prices were unchanged last month from May and had risen only a modest 1.1 per cent over the past 12 months.

Retailers are doing quite a bit worse than was expected, but the good news for consumers is that inflation is at a standstill, Mr. David Ernst, of Evans Economics, a consulting firm, said.

The unexpected decline in retail sales meant the economy could take longer to rebound from the slow growth of the early part of the year, he said.

The sales report could lead the Federal Reserve Board, the central bank, to ease interest rates, credit market traders said.

Employment data last week that showed a small gain in new jobs also revived fears about the economy.

Growth in the economy in the first half, as measured by the Gross National Product, averaged between two and 2.5 per cent.

But Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige said consumers remained confident and predicted spending would pick up and push the economy to stronger growth in the second six months.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JULY 14, 1985
GENERAL TENDENCIES: An unusually good Sunday for expanding your mentality to take in many ideas that can aid your development and advancement far more than for some time past.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Do some research work that can help you to make the future far brighter. Take any necessary little trips.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Your monetary ideas can work out well in the days ahead, so put them in operation. Make notes of other ideas.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You are charming now and have brilliance of mind, so contact those who can be of assistance to you and gain favors.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Good day for making arrangements to further your interests considerably. Be thoughtful with your mate.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get in touch with your good friends and be your gregarious self and have a delightful time. Take no risks while out driving.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Show your finest abilities to higher-ups and they will help you to become more successful. Contact influential persons.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Fine day to travel to places where you can make worthwhile contacts and improve relationships with others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Your intuition is working very well now, so use it wisely and you can gain your aims. Show more kindness.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) If you sit down with others and reason matters out quietly now, you come to a fine understanding with them.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Good day to get your activities for the next few weeks nicely scheduled. Establish fine rapport with fellow workers.

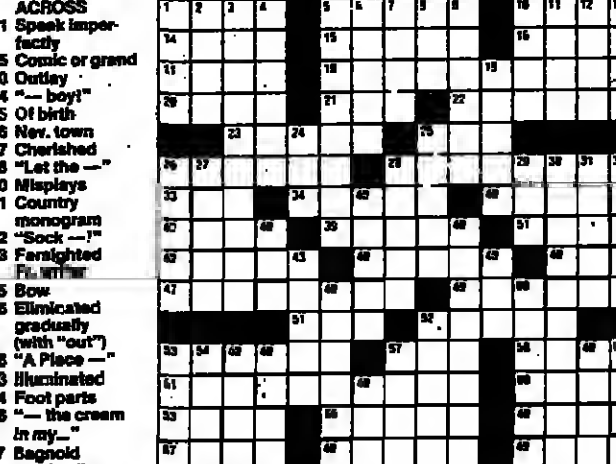
AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can have a delightful time at recreations mutually enjoyed with congenial friends. Be punctual.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Ideal day to be at home with kin and having much family fun together, which will help make the future brighter.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will quickly comprehend what is going on around him or her and can become very successful during the lifetime, provided you early teach to complete whatever has been started. Give the finest education you can afford.

THE Daily Crossword

by Ethel Snyder



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. To see ourselves as others — 2. Lab vessel — 3. Ethiopian commander — 4. New Orleans trumpeter — 5. Penny — 6. Butcher — 7. Milk — 8. Sound quality — 9. Soap flax — 10. Infirmary — 11. Extinct — 12. A — 13. Dawn — 14. Derby winner, 1983 — 15. Archangel — 16. Rascal — 17. City near Caspian Sea — 18. Household — 19. cove: abbr. — 20. Between tropics — 21. B. other — 22. Coterie — 23. City near — 24. B. other — 25. Coterie — 26. City near — 27. B. other — 28. Coterie — 29. City near — 30. B. other — 31. Coterie — 32. City near — 33. B. other — 34. Coterie — 35. City near — 36. B. other — 37. Coterie — 38. City near — 39. B. other — 40. Coterie — 41. City near — 42. B. other — 43. Coterie — 44. City near — 45. B. other — 46. Coterie — 47. City near — 48. B. other — 49. Coterie — 50. City near — 51. B. other — 52. Coterie — 53. City near — 54. B. other — 55. Coterie — 56. City near — 57. B. other — 58. Coterie — 59. City near — 60. B. other — 61. Coterie — 62. City near — 63. B. other — 64. Coterie — 65. City near — 66. B. other — 67. Coterie — 68. City near — 69. B. other — 70. Coterie — 71. City near — 72. B. other — 73. Coterie — 74. City near — 75. B. other — 76. Coterie — 77. City near — 78. B. other — 79. Coterie — 80. City near — 81. B. other — 82. Coterie — 83. City near — 84. B. other — 85. Coterie — 86. City near — 87. B. other — 88. Coterie — 89. City near — 90. B. other — 91. Coterie — 92. City near — 93. B. other — 94. Coterie — 95. City near — 96. B. other — 97. Coterie — 98. City near — 99. B. other — 100. Coterie — 101. City near — 102. B. other — 103. Coterie — 104. City near — 105. B. other — 106. Coterie — 107. City near — 108. B. other — 109. Coterie — 110. City near — 111. B. other — 112. Coterie — 113. City near — 114. B. other — 115. Coterie — 116. City near — 117. B. other — 118. Coterie — 119. City near — 120. B. other — 121. Coterie — 122. City near — 123. B. other — 124. Coterie — 125. City near — 126. B. other — 127. Coterie — 128. City near — 129. B. other — 130. Coterie — 131. City near — 132. B. other — 133. Coterie — 134. City near — 135. B. other — 136. Coterie — 137. City near — 138. B. other — 139. Coterie — 140. City near — 141. B. other — 142. Coterie — 143. City near — 144. B. other — 145. Coterie — 146. City near — 147. B. other — 148. Coterie — 149. City near — 150. B. other — 151. Coterie — 152. City near — 153. B. other — 154. Coterie — 155. City near — 156. B. other — 157. Coterie — 158. City near — 159. B. other — 160. Coterie — 161. City near — 162. B. other — 163. Coterie — 164. City near — 165. B. other — 166. Coterie — 167. City near — 168. B. other — 169. Coterie — 170. City near — 171. B. other — 172. Coterie — 173. City near — 174. B. other — 175. Coterie — 176. City near — 177. B. other — 178. Coterie — 179. City near — 180. B. other — 181. Coterie — 182. City near — 183. B. other — 184. Coterie — 185. City near — 186. B. other — 187. Coterie — 188. City near — 189. B. other — 190. Coterie — 191. City near — 192. B. other — 193. Coterie — 194. City near — 195. B. other — 196. Coterie — 197. City near — 198. B. other — 199. Coterie — 200. City near — 201. B. other — 202. Coterie — 203. City near — 204. B. other — 205. Coterie — 206. City near — 207. B. other — 208. Coterie — 209. City near — 210. B. other — 211. Coterie — 212. City near — 213. B. other — 214. Coterie — 215. City near — 216. B. other — 217. Coterie — 218. City near — 219. B. other — 220. Coterie — 221. City near — 222. B. other — 223. Coterie — 224. City near — 225. B. other — 226. Coterie — 227. City near — 228. B. other — 229. Coterie — 230. City near — 231. B. other — 232. Coterie — 233. City near — 234. B. other — 235. Coterie — 236. City near — 237. B. other — 238. Coterie — 239. City near — 240. B. other — 241. Coterie — 242. City near — 243. B. other — 244. Coterie — 245. City near — 246. B. other — 247. Coterie — 248. City near — 249. B. other — 250. Coterie — 251. City near — 252. B. other — 253. Coterie — 254. City near — 255. B. other — 256. Coterie — 257. City near — 258. B. other — 259. Coterie — 260. City near — 261. B. other — 262. Coterie — 263. City near — 264. B. other — 265. Coterie — 266. City near — 267. B. other — 268. Coterie — 269. City near — 270. B. other — 271. Coterie — 272. City near — 273. B. other — 274. Coterie — 275. City near — 276. B. other — 277. Coterie — 278. City near — 279. B. other — 280. Coterie — 281. City near — 282. B. other — 28

Black man killed, woman hurt in S. Africa protests

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (Agencies) — A black man was killed as protesters used stones, fire-bombs, an acid bomb and hand grenades in attacks in black communities near Johannesburg and in eastern Cape province, police reported Saturday.

A spokesman at national police headquarters in Pretoria, who may not be named under police policy, said a bomb caused minor damage to an electricity substation in Durban late Friday. No injuries were reported. Most bomb explosions are attributed to African National Congress (ANC) saboteurs, who seek to end white-minority rule.

Police said a crowd attacked a black policeman's home in New Brighton, near the Cape province industrial centre of Port Elizabeth, with stones and gasoline bombs. The policeman and guards at the house fired on the crowd, killing one man and wounding a woman.

The woman and a man involved in the incident were reported arrested. Police said hand grenades were thrown into two houses in Tembisa, near Johannesburg, but caused no injuries. Eight young blacks who had died in grenade explosions more than two weeks

ago were buried this week in two townships near Tembisa. In Alexandra, on the edge of Johannesburg, police said they arrested five black men after an acid bomb was thrown at a police vehicle.

Some 450 blacks have died in more than 10 months of protests spurred by black complaints about inferior schools and government-imposed rents, and by underlying resentment of the government's policy of apartheid, or legalised race-separation. Independent monitors say about half the blacks died in battles with police, and others were killed in criminal attacks or in fighting between rival anti-apartheid groups.

Meanwhile Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek said Friday the Netherlands will withdraw its ambassador if it does not get satisfaction from South Africa over the recapture by policemen of a Dutch detainee from its embassy. The Netherlands has demanded

an apology and disciplinary action against the three South African policemen involved in the incident as well as assurances it will not repeat.

Mr. Van Den Broek has also insisted that the detainee, Klaas de Jonge, 47, be returned to the embassy in Pretoria, according to the Foreign Ministry.

After South Africa's ambassador to the Hague, David Louw, handed a note to the Foreign Ministry responding to the demands, Mr. Van Den Broek said in a television interview: "So far, we have received only unsatisfactory answers to the questions we asked."

"If the answer remains the same, I shall be forced to take diplomatic measures in the form of recalling the ambassador."

However, discussions were still going on with the South Africans through diplomatic channels, he said. Mr. Louw later said Friday's note had been only an interim answer to the Dutch demands and he expected a definitive reply from Pretoria on Sunday or on Monday. Some aspects of the answer required further close attention, he added.

Angola suspends contacts with U.S.

LISBON (R) — Angola has suspended all contacts with the United States over southern African problems in protest at the lifting of a ban on military aid to UNITA rebels, the Angolan News Agency ANGOP has announced.

The U.S. House of Representatives voted three days ago to end the 10-year ban on aid to

UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola), which is waging a guerrilla war against the Luanda government.

Angola has no diplomatic relations with Washington, but the two governments have been in permanent contact in efforts to speed up an independence settlement in Namibia (South West

Africa) and bring peace to the southern African region.

ANGOP quoted the Foreign Ministry as saying the 236 to 185 House vote proved there was a concerted policy by South Africa and the United States to try to replace the Angolan government with a puppet regime.

Portuguese Socialists choose new candidate

LISBON (R) — Portugal's Socialist choice veteran politician Antonio Almeida Santos, 59, Saturday as candidate for prime minister should the party win general elections in October, party sources said.

Mr. Almeida Santos, minister of state in the outgoing government, was nominated by Prime Minister Mario Soares, 60, widely expected to contest presidential polls in January.

He received 30 votes against 14 for Foreign Minister Jaime Gama, 38, at a meeting of the top-level political committee, the sources said.

The choice was made as major

parties began plotting their strategy after President Antonio Ramalho Eanes, ending a 10-year term of office, dissolved parliament Friday following the collapse of the two-year Socialist-Social Democratic coalition government. He set Oct. 6 as the date for new polls.

The volatile Social Democrats, whose new leader Anibal Cavaco Silva, 44, abandoned the coalition with the Socialists last month, are also considering their next moves.

So are the Communists, third largest party under veteran hard-line leader Alvaro Cunhal, 71, and the right-wing Christian Democrats headed by Francisco Lucas

Pires, 39.

Mr. Eanes delayed dissolution until parliament had voted overwhelmingly in favour of Portuguese entry into the European Community in January next year.

Apart from Mr. Soares, who has still to declare himself formally, the main contenders for the presidency are former Christian Democratic leader Diogo Freitas do Amaral, 44, and Portugal's first woman Prime Minister Maria Lamas Pintassilgo, 55, a left-wing Catholic intellectual and chemical engineer.

Political observers here forecast a turbulent campaign over the next six months for legislative, local and presidential elections as Portugal struggles for economic recovery to prepare for Community membership.

Salvadorean rebels free 104 inmates in prison raid

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — Leftist guerrillas attacked El Salvador's largest prison Friday evening with grenades, mortars and rifle fire and 104 prisoners escaped in the confusion, the prison commander said.

Jose Vitelio Escobar, commander of the La Maricón prison, said the guerrillas hit just before the evening lock up, when many prisoners were outside their cells. He said 104 detainees, including 13 political prisoners, bolted during the half-hour attack, which left three guards wounded, one critically.

"The prisoners were outside in the exercise yard when the guerrillas lobbed grenades into the sentry box on the south wall," the commander said. "They continued lobbing grenades and mortars over the wall, and then they shot a 90 millimetre mortar through the south wall."

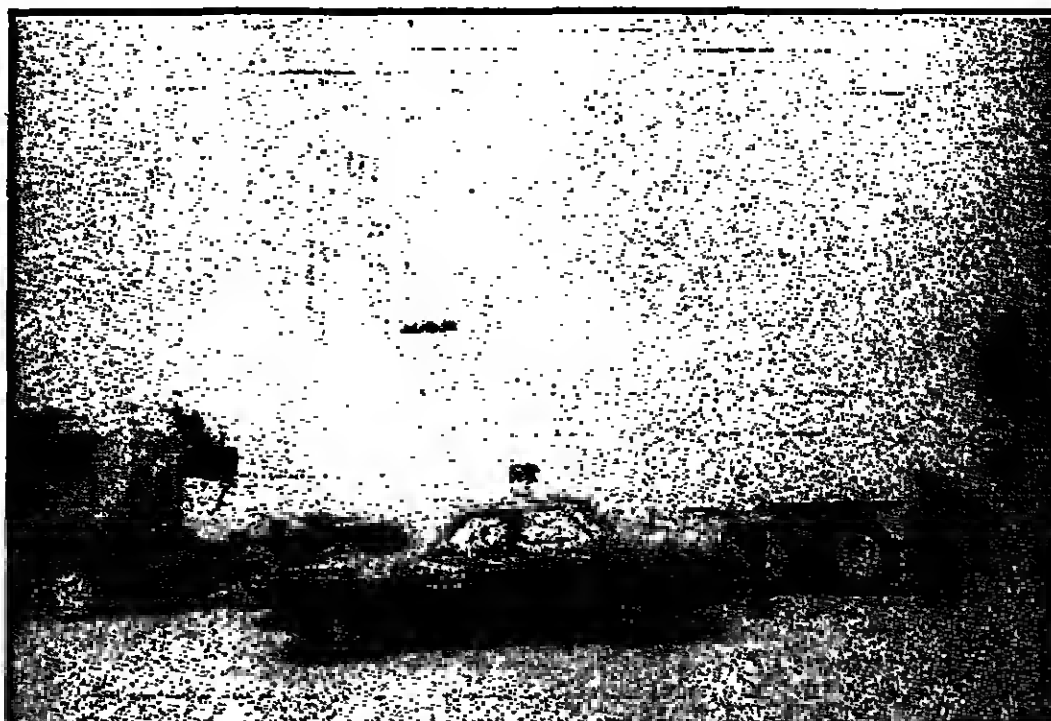
One mortar round left a one-metre wide hole in the thick masonry wall through which the commander said most of the prisoners made their escape.

One of the escapees was captured shortly after the breakout by national police, Vitelio Escobar said, adding that the police and army were notified immediately after the attack.

The commander said the attack apparently was launched from hills on the south side of the prison, which is surrounded by a masonry wall studded with sentry boxes. It is located in a sparsely populated area between two poor working-class neighbourhoods about two miles north of the capital.

The army ringed the prison after the escape and a C-47 gunship was seen circling the area. The prison houses 1,500 inmates, including 433 political detainees, Vitelio Escobar said.

Earlier, Col. Carlos Avila, the military's chief spokesman, said about 20 prisoners escaped.



CRASH BARRIER: A semi-trailer truck blocks the entrance to the Bethesda Naval Hospital as a police car and patrolmen keep watch outside the hospital against any possible attacks against U.S. President Ronald Reagan who underwent a surgery in the hospital Saturday (AP wirephoto)

Nakasone begins European tour

PARIS (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone arrived in Paris Saturday at the start of a four-day official visit to France aimed at improving business and cultural ties.

He was greeted at Orly Airport by Prime Minister Laurent Fabius, with whom he had a brief private meeting. He was expected to have talks with President Francois Mitterrand, Mr. Fabius and Defence Minister Charles Hernu.

Talks are expected to cover security, the Middle East and monetary problems and are also likely to touch on the sensitive area of Japanese-European trade.

Japanese and French officials say no new economic deals are due to be signed during Mr. Nakasone's visit to France, which launches a 10-day tour of Western Europe taking in Italy, Belgium and European Community headquarters in Brussels.

The visit is taking place at a difficult time in Japanese-European trade relations. Member governments of the 10-nation European Community, with which

Japan has a \$10-billion-trade surplus, are demanding greater access to Japanese markets.

But Japanese diplomats stressed the cultural aspects of the trip over the political, noting that Mr. Nakasone's entourage includes no other ministers. One diplomat described the delegation as comprising mainly "faceless functionaries."

Tributes to French painters Cezanne and Monet as well as to Mr. Nakasone's former French teacher share space on the prime minister's agenda with business meetings and a visit to France's leading aerospace company Aerospatiale.

Mr. Nakasone will attend Bastille Day celebrations on the Champs Elysees Sunday.

The Japanese leader, who says his country's markets remain open, said in a recent interview with a French newspaper: "Japan places great importance in bilateral cooperation between itself, Europe and the United States."

Japan has repeatedly promised to liberalise imports and recently

cut tariffs on manufactured and farm goods including wine and electronic equipment — areas of prime interest for France.

But critics say these moves are little more than gestures. There is scepticism in France, whose exports to Japan pay for barely one third of its imports, that Mr. Nakasone's European visit will help translate promises into concrete action.

French press comment ahead of the visit indicated a mixture of admiration for the prime minister and suspicion of Japanese economic policy. One pro-Socialist Paris daily described Mr. Nakasone as a cultured, elegant man modelled on Charles de Gaulle.

But a leading economic daily called Japan an economic war machine bent on pitiless competition. The prime minister, it said, will come to France hearing an "embarrassing economic baggage."

France had a 14.9 billion franc (\$1.7 billion) trade deficit with Japan last year and ranked only 25th among its suppliers.

Bolivia expected to shift to right in election

LA PAZ (R) — Bolivians, tired of government failure to solve the country's economic crisis and halt inflation of nearly 9,000 per cent a year, are expected to shift to the right in Sunday's general election.

Leftist President Hernan Siles Zuazo attempted to have the election postponed but an opposition boycott meant that the special congress session called to consider this failed for want of a quorum.

Mr. Siles, whose party is running a poor fourth in opinion polls, said he wanted the delay because of fraud and the failure to register up to one million voters.

Both leading parties have pledged strong anti-inflation measures, including sharp cuts in government spending.

The difference between the two main candidates is one of style. The left-wing and labour fear that the front-runner, former military leader Hugo Banzer, would resort to the measures that marked his rule in the 1970s to make his economic policy work.

Victor Paz Estenssoro, twice former president of Bolivia and running second in opinion polls, says he will try to avoid polarising the country and seek popular support for measures that Bolivians realise must be taken to halt economic collapse.

CIA agent reportedly killed in Ghana

NEW YORK (R) — Reagan administration officials were quoted Saturday as saying they believed at least one Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) informant in Ghana had been murdered after his identity was disclosed by an agency employee charged with espionage.

The New York Times said the officials, who asked not to be identified, said there were fears in the intelligence community that reprisals would be taken against several other Ghanaians who assisted CIA covert operations in the country.

The report follows the arrest on

Thursday of Sharon Scarnage, a CIA employee of seven years, charged with passing information on CIA activities in Ghana to individuals there, including the nephew of Ghanaian leader Jerry Rawlings.

Meanwhile Ghana said Friday the latest U.S. espionage case amounted to the first public admission of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) activities in the West African nation.

A brief government statement said it also showed CIA involvement in the activities of Ghanaian dissidents.

The government comment did

Air India 'black box' arrives in India

BOMBAY (R) — Two "black box" flight and voice recorders said to contain vital clues to the crash of a packed Air India Jumbo jet arrived here Saturday amid tight security.

The boxes were taken to the airline's workshops near Bombay International Airport for analysis.

The doomed plane broke up in mid-air and plunged into the Atlantic off the south coast of Ireland on June 23. All 329 people on board were killed. The boxes were retrieved after a massive undersea search.

Indian officials have said they do not rule out possible sabotage while two militant Sikh groups were reported to have claimed responsibility for bombing the plane.

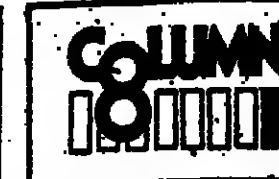
An Air India official refused to comment on who would be conducting the analysis. He said an expert from Lockheed, the U.S. manufacturer of the recorders, had been unable to board the Air India flight which brought the black boxes to Bombay. He gave no further details.

"Black box" flight recorders of the type recovered from the Air India wreckage have given clues to many crashes and, on occasion, a dramatic portrait of an airliner in its last moments.

Experts have warned, however, that the recorders might not contain vital data if there was a sudden power failure.

Despite being called a "black box" the equipment aboard the Air India plane is contained in two water-tight red boxes.

The equipment, required by international regulation on all large commercial aircraft, consists of a cockpit voice recorder, which tapes all the conversations there as well as sounds such as engine noises, warning horns or the switching of cockpit controls, and a flight data recorder, which records altitude, air speed and vertical forces.



Minister defends king over smuggling charges

BRUSSELS (R) — The Belgian Foreign Ministry swung to the defence of King Baudouin, accused of smuggling rare chimpanzees and ivory given to him by Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko. The Dutch-language newspaper De Morgen charged that the monarch had smuggled the gifts into Belgium without a licence on the royal plane which flew him and Queen Fabiola back from a state visit to Belgium's former African colony last week. But a Foreign Ministry statement said: "International courtesy implies that gifts should be accepted. This was the case when the king visited Zaire. The gifts were loaded onto the plane just before departure." The necessary measures were being taken to obtain import licences for the animals and the ivory, which is virtually banned in Belgium. "There was therefore no intention of not observing the law or convention," the statement added. The chimpanzees, which arrived in Brussels in poor health, are now in quarantine at Antwerp Zoo.

Leprosy vaccine to be tested in Malawi

LONDON (R) — A vaccine which could stamp out leprosy affecting an estimated 11 million people worldwide will be tested in the African state on Malawi next year, a British charity has announced. The British Leprosy Relief Association (Lepra) said an initial 10,000 volunteers in a high-risk area, all non-sufferers, would receive the vaccine. After a detailed evaluation to decide the effect of the vaccine in stimulating immunity against leprosy, trial tests will take place throughout Malawi, which has a population of six million. Lepra aids leprosy projects worldwide but the bulk of its work is centred in Malawi where it has treated more than 40,000 patients in the past 20 years.

Shaver puts Orly Airport on alert

PARIS (R) — A battery-operated shaver that started to buzz inside a travelling bag touched off a security alert at Paris Orly Airport, where police evacuated part of a terminal while bomb experts investigated. A porter handling baggage bound for a flight noted the strange noise and called the police, who cordoned off an area including the passport control zone. Experts X-rayed the bag before opening it gingerly to find the shaver, which had accidentally switched itself on.

Second British actor to portray Lennon

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A British actor who grew up five kilometres from the birthplace of slain Beatle John Lennon was chosen to portray the rock and roll legend in a new television movie, the U.S. NBC network said. Mark McGann was hired less than three weeks after another British actor, Mark Lindsay, was hired for the role in the film about Lennon and his wife, Yoko Ono. Lindsay was fired when it became known that his real name is Mark Chapman, the same name as the man who killed Lennon Dec. 8, 1980, in New York City. "It was most unfortunate," McGann said of Lindsay's predicament. "I was very, very sad for the bloke. I hadn't even thought about screen-testing for the show before I read about what happened to him."

Lockheed unveils first of huge transport planes

MARIETTA, Georgia (AP) — The first of 50 planned C-5B U.S. military transport planes — the largest aircraft in the world — has rolled off the assembly line. The C-5B, a modernised version of the military workhorse C-5A, was towed out of its final assembly hangar at the Lockheed-Georgia plant in this Atlanta suburb. The plane is more than 72 metres long with a wingspan of 68 metres and a tail section as tall as a six-storey building. Each C-5B can carry two M-1 tanks. Four of the planes can haul a squadron of 24 attack helicopters, crews and support equipment into a combat zone. The U.S. Defence Department ordered 50 of the planes from Lockheed in 1982, agreeing to a fixed-price contract for \$7.817 billion, taking into account anticipated inflation.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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MORE MOYSE
North-South vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ AK9743
♥ AJ97
♦ 62
♣ 10874

EAST
♠ Void
♥ 652
♦ QJ108762
♣ K95

SOUTH
♠ Q5
♥ 1083
♦ AK94
♣ AQJ3

The bidding:
West North East South
1 ♣ Pass 5 ♠ Dble
Pass 6 ♣ Pass 6 ♣
Pass Pass Pass

(Opening lead: Three of ♣.)

The hypermodern systems caused problems during the World Team Olympiad in Seattle. No less a star than Benito Garozzo of Italy was heard grumbling about them. However, even their practitioners were having difficulties.

There is no telling to what level North-South might have aspired in spades if left to their own devices. However, East-West were using a system where an opening bid of one spade showed 7-11 points and any distribution, so West silenced North by "stealing" his suit. East took advantage of the vulnerability for an advance sacrifice, and South

expressed grave doubt about East's ability to fulfill his contract. Now North came to life with a six level cue-bid, asking his partner to choose a major suit, and the result was an inelegant heart slam on the 43 Mayanai fall.

Obviously, a spade lead would have settled matters there and then, but who could fault West for leading his singleton in the suit bid by his partner at the five-level? Declarer won in hand with ace and led the eight of hearts.

There was one last chance for the defense. If West split his honors, he could win the second trump lead and still give his partner a spade ruff. However, it did not dawn on West that South had only a three-card trump suit, so he played low. Declarer ran the eight, then continued with a trump to the queen and ace. A third round of trumps drew the outstanding cards in the suit.

Now West shifted to a spade, but too late. Declarer won the queen and took both of dummy's high spades, shuffling a diamond from hand. A successful club finesse was followed by the king of diamonds and a diamond ruff. On this last trick West was hopelessly squeezed in the black suits. Since he was forced to keep a spade, he could hold only two clubs. Declarer took another club finesse, cashed the ace and his three of clubs became the fulfilling trick.

U.S. space shuttle launch fails due to faulty valve

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — For the second time in just over a year NASA technicians fired the powerful engines of a space shuttle only to see the spaceship's computers scrub the launch seconds before lift-off.

The space shuttle Challenger fell victim Friday to a faulty 18-centimetre valve, which prompted on-board computers to shut down the spaceship's three main engines with three seconds remaining on the countdown clock.

In an official report on the aborted launch, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) said it would be at least a week to 10 days before another launch could be attempted.

However, NASA officials said privately that Challenger's mission could face a month-long delay that would force a restructuring of the timetable for the year's five remaining flights.

Challenger's engines had begun belching flame and smoke Friday when its on-board computers halted the countdown. The spa-

ceship's computer had detected a failure in a tiny valve that feeds liquid hydrogen coolant to the main engines.

"We are disappointed but otherwise in good shape," Commander Charles Fullerton told mission controllers as he and six fellow astronauts prepared to leave the shuttle's cabin.

The launch pad's sprinkler system went into action, dousing the shuttle's tail section with thousands of gallons of water as a precaution against fire. About 45 minutes after the launch was cancelled, the crew emerged from their compartment.

"We really were ready to go," Fullerton told reporters. "But also we are thankful the system worked as it should."

NASA officials say they are determined to isolate the exact cause of the failure before making another launch attempt. The prime suspect is the electronic system that controls the opening and closing of the valve.

The engine shutdown forced the

postponement of a seven-day scientific mission that was to focus on the European Space Lab, a sleek-like contraption loaded with \$78 million worth of astronomical experiments.

Astronauts were to have used powerful telescopes to study the sun, the earth's atmosphere and star-devouring black holes believed to be lying in deep space.

It was only the second time in the shuttle's four-year history that a launch has been cancelled after the spaceship's engines fired. The maiden voyage of Discovery was scrubbed in June 1984 only four seconds before lift-off because of a faulty main fuel valve.

About 45 minutes after the cancellation of the launch, ground technicians opened the orbiter door and eased the astronauts out of their cramped compartment.

Space agency officials said the lives of the crew members were never endangered.

"I was expecting to feel the big bang," a disappointed Fullerton said at a news conference. "The seven of us had a keener interest in

everything being up to snuff than anybody."

Technicians will drain Challenger's fuel tanks and go through the lengthy process of inspecting the main engines in preparation for the next launch attempt.

Mission scientist Dan Spicer said there was no need at present to unload the 12 major experiments already on board the shuttle.

But he said that a failure to launch within the next four days could diminish the scientific returns expected from an array of telescopes that are to study the sun, stars and earth's atmosphere.

"The problem is that we'll have a full moon in a four days," Spicer said. "For the best scientific results, we need to have a dark sky."

The shuttle was also due to take America's Cola Wars into earth's orbit. Coca-Cola and Pepsi-Cola were sending their beverages aloft for the first time to test newly developed soft drink cans designed to retain carbonation in the weightlessness of space.